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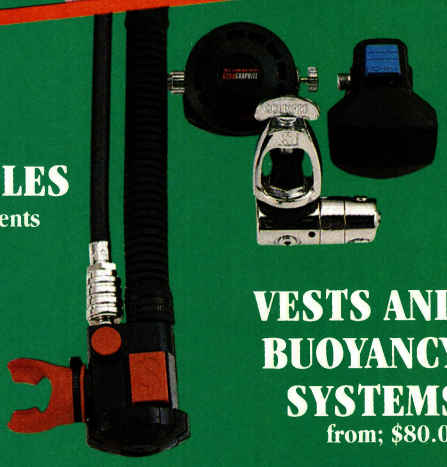
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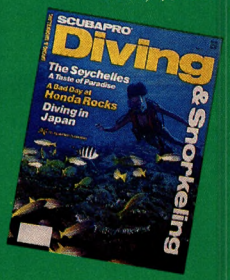




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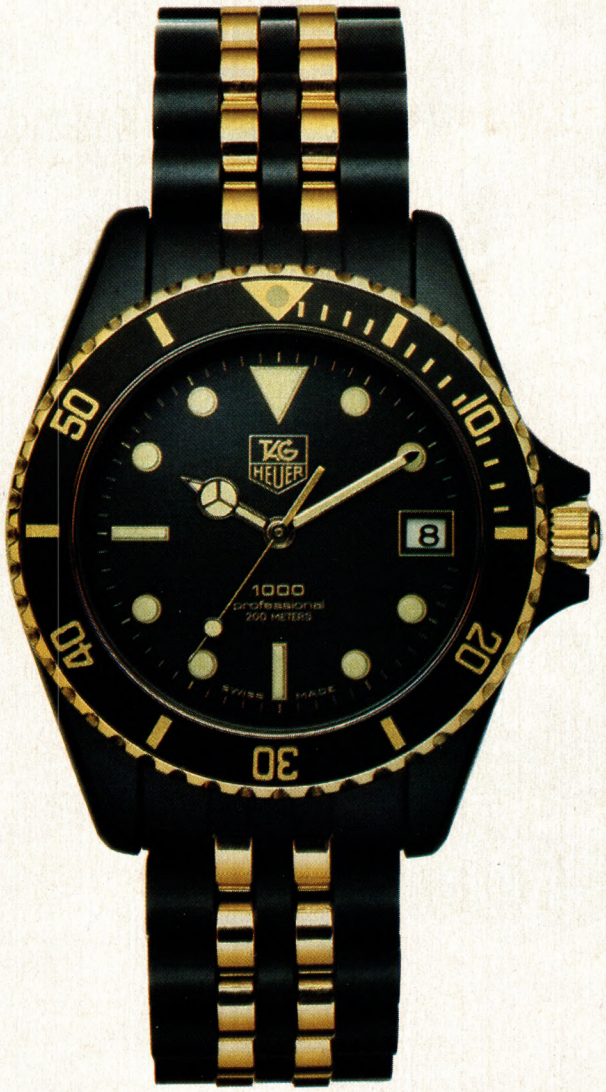
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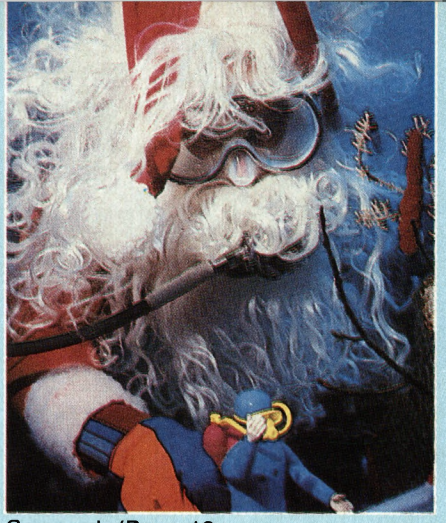
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COVER

Anne Davis of Aggressor Fleet Limited poses with a bright orange frogfish. This unusual animal occurs in a variety of colors and blends in very well with its surroundings. For more see page 26. Photo/Geri Murphy.

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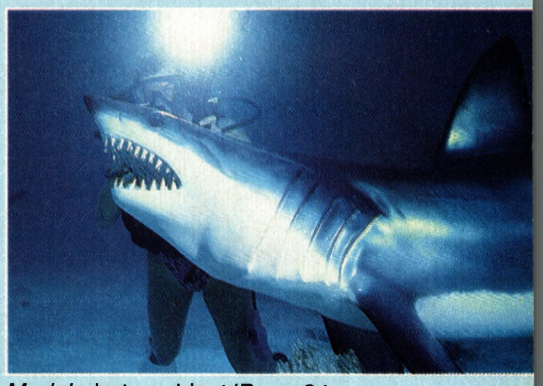
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SDM Editorial

BY BILL GLEASON

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAVE A SAFE NEW YEAR

What is the best Christmas gift to give your favorite diver? When I was drawing up my shopping list the other day I outlined the perfect diver's Christmas gift. It had to be unique, something the diver didn't already have. It had to last a long time, so the diver would remember the giver cared about him or her all year long. And, while it shouldn't be too expensive, it should have a fabulous value.

I searched long and hard in dive stores and catalogues, but a gift fitting all my specifications wasn't to be found. Then, luckily, a letter arrived in the mail and I knew I had the perfect gift for divers. It fit every point on my wish list!

This Christmas gift works for an entire year, with no maintenance. It costs only $40 but it could be worth as much as $15,000. It puts the resources of an entire organization at a diver's disposal, with only a phone call. And, it keeps the diver up-to-date on the latest in diving safety. Not only does the diver get a great Christmas gift, but he/she gets a safe new year as well.

This perfect Christmas gift is diving insurance, courtesy of the Divers Alert Network (DAN). A non-profit organization headquartered at Duke University, DAN came into existence in 1980. It has helped thousands of divers with emergency and routine diving medical problems. The organization has a 24 hour, 365 day per year medical assistance hotline—(919) 684-8111—to handle any type of diving emergency. Divers in trouble may have their doctors contact DAN to find the location of the nearest hyperbaric chamber, arrange transportation to it, or to find a qualified hyperbaric physician.

More than 15,000 divers are now members of DAN, and that's a shame! There are more than 1.2 million active divers and you'd think a lot more people would join the most valuable organization in diving. It's easy and cheap. Becoming a member costs only $15. For that you receive a membership card, the *Underwater Diving Accident Manual*, tank and gear decals with the hotline number, and a subscription to DAN's newsletter, Alert Diver. DAN is not just for emergencies, either. Members may get free medical advice and physician referrals by calling its medical advisor line: (919) 684-2948.

But, the good news is just beginning. This year DAN achieved a historic breakthrough. It can now provide its members with diving insurance! This is one of the most valuable types of insurance we can carry. A policy costing $25 a year will provide up to $15,000 for emergency hyperbaric medical treatment. Remember: every diver is a potential bends victim. Although statistics tell us the probability of getting bent on a single dive is between .003 and .008 percent, which is very slim, it can still happen.

Divers' reaction to this insurance will probably be very diverse. For example: *Wait a minute, aren't I already covered by my normal medical insurance?* There is a good chance you are not. Yes, your policy will cover hospitalization, etc., but it may not cover hyperbaric treatment or air evacuation. If, for example, you get bent on a vacation, it may cost $5,000 to $10,000 just to fly you to the nearest chamber. While nearly all policies cover ambulance costs, this means a car type ambulance, not an air ambulance. What do you do when you find out that only $100 of your $5,000 bill is covered by insurance? You take out the passbook marked "life savings."





Below: Perks of DAN membership. Above: DAN insurance can provide up to $15,000 for emergency hyperbaric treatment.

photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

Some divers may say: *Well, I don't need this insurance because "it" will never happen to me!* "It" means decompression sickness or air embolism. The fact is that 60 percent of all bends cases happen to divers who are within the limits of the tables. Just diving within the tables is *not* insurance against getting bent.

To find out exactly what your current medical insurance covers, I suggest you call the claims department and ask whether the following areas are covered:

1. Hyperbaric chamber treatment(s) for scuba diving injuries.
2. Air ambulance transportation to a hyperbaric chamber.
3. Transport or treatment *outside* of the United States.

If the answer to any of the questions is no, you should immediately sign up for diving insurance by joining DAN and requesting the policy.

To join DAN, simply call (800) 628-2828 and ask for the DAN extension. For just $15 (DAN accepts MasterCard and Visa) you will be enrolled as a member of the Divers Alert Network.

Also, request an insurance application. For another $25 you'll have the best divers medical insurance available today.

If you have any questions you may write to Diver's Alert Network, P.O. Box 3823, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina 27710. During the next year, you'll see announcements about the insurance and DAN in the pages of SKIN DIVER. We're running these as a public service for you, our readers, so you can join the most valuable safety organization in diving.

Give yourself, and the diver you care about, this very special Christmas gift. And, enjoy diving safely in the coming New Year!



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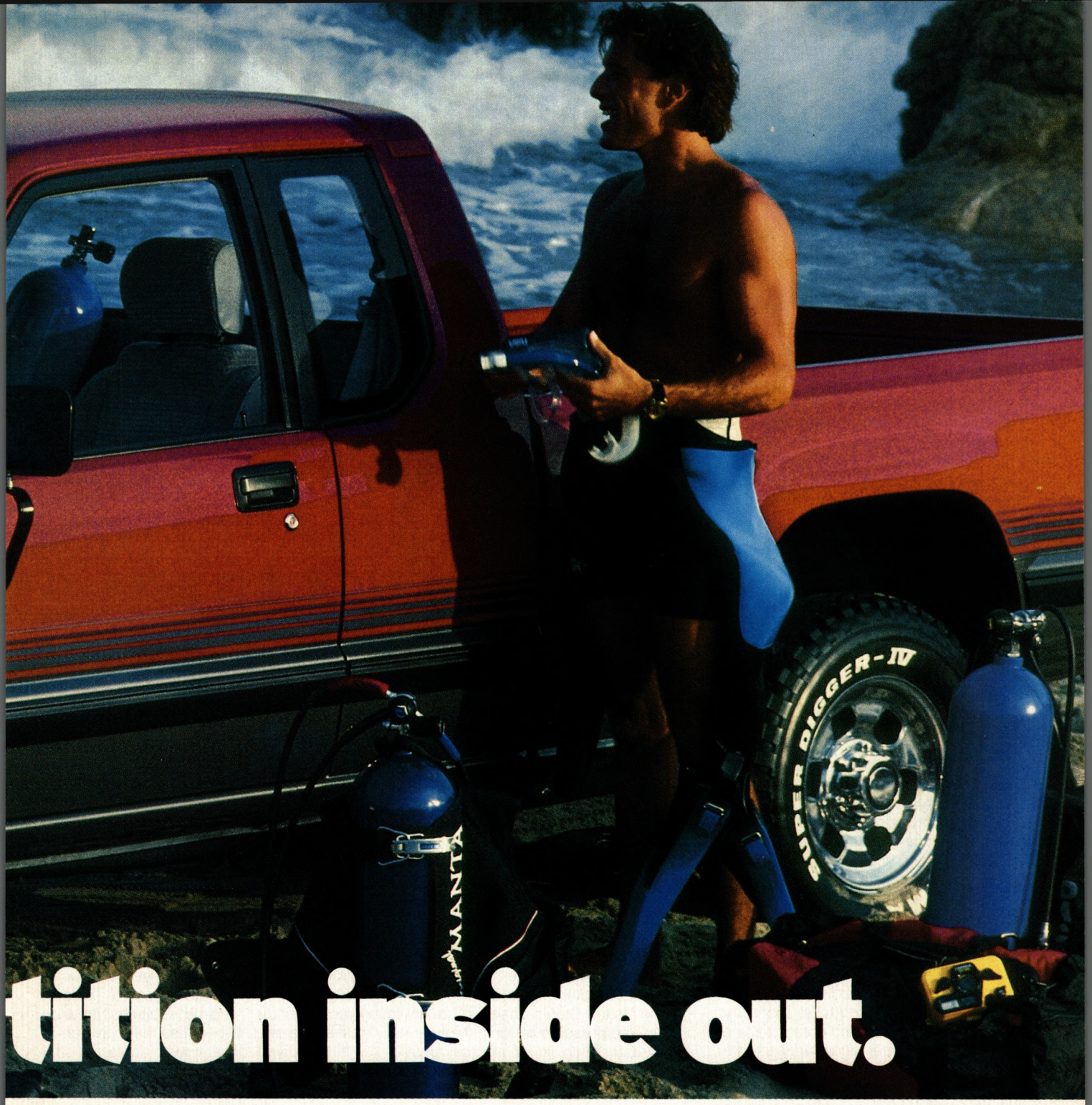
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SDM Editorial

BY PAUL J. TZIMOULIS

DIVERS ABOUT TO LOSE THEIR SHIPWRECKS

A great tragedy is about to befall our beloved sport. Divers in America may very well lose their personal rights and freedom to search for and explore sunken shipwrecks. And, that is not all. Divers who persist in diving these wrecks may very well lose their life savings, their boats, their dive gear and perhaps even their automobiles.

Congressional lawmakers in Washington, D.C. have proposed an absolutely devastating piece of legislation that will affect each and every diver in America today. It is the culmination of eight years of legislative proposals, rewrites and new proposals. This time, it may go through.

Known among divers as the infamous HR 74, this piece of legislation is deliberately intended to be vague but all encompassing. It will make every single sunken or buried shipwreck the property of the U.S. Government. It does not differentiate among historical wrecks, archaeological wrecks and plain old steel hulks. It does not specify how shipwrecks will be classified, how the law will be regulated or who will enforce it. In essence, the law is left open to wide interpretation by whatever agencies are empowered to control the wrecks and enforce the law.

Yet, while the regulation details may be vague, the penalties are quite specific. This latest version of HR 74 includes a poison pill. It clearly specifies civil penalties for shipwreck violators, including fines of up to $50,000 and confiscation of dive boats and other equipment used in the perpetration of the "crime." A sport diver who happens to innocently bump into an unmarked wreck (sort of an underwater speed trap) could end up losing his or her entire life savings.

Why in the world would Washington pass such an incredibly unfair law? The answer is simple. The law is the result of the persuasive lobbying efforts of a small special interest group. They are primarily underwater archaeologists who wish to take control of this country's shipwrecks and utilize the government as their private police force. These men of science have formed their own association and have actively been practicing back room politics, character assassinations and high pressure persuasion.



For years, underwater archaeologists did not pay much attention to the shipwrecks of America. They were busy digging into the more historical shipwrecks in the Mediterranean and other parts of the world. But, when their funds dried up and a few American treasure divers struck it rich, their interests quickly changed. It would appear that greed and lust have replaced the pursuit of science. These underwater archaeologists want to claim all the wrecks, whether they have earned the right or not.

How did they do it, you ask? They were clever in the way they went about it. First, they presented the general assumption that the United States "needed" a law to protect and preserve historic shipwrecks. This presumption is, of course, untrue. We already have laws that protect and preserve many shipwrecks in U/W parks and national monuments.

The catch here is that the locations of the wrecks currently protected are known and that these wrecks have been identified as being historically significant. What the U/W archaeologists really want is a blanket law claiming ownership over shipwrecks that have not yet been found nor identified as having historic significance. They want the whole cake.

Next, the U/W archaeologists joined forces with several well meaning politicians and tried to quickly pass a law that would take shipwrecks away from divers. Early attempts were met with stiff opposition, especially from the Atlantic Alliance for Maritime Heritage Conservation.

They then utilized the old "divide and conquer" strategy by inviting DEMA and other diving organizations to help the legislators draft a "good law" for shipwreck control. Winning support from any segment of the sport diving faction would aid their cause immensely, for now they could claim that divers welcomed the new law. There is just one hitch in this strategy: DEMA may represent the diving equipment manufacturers, but it does not represent the sport diving consumers. In fact, that is our major problem—there is no national organization that represents and protects the interests of the sport diver. We have no consumer advocate.

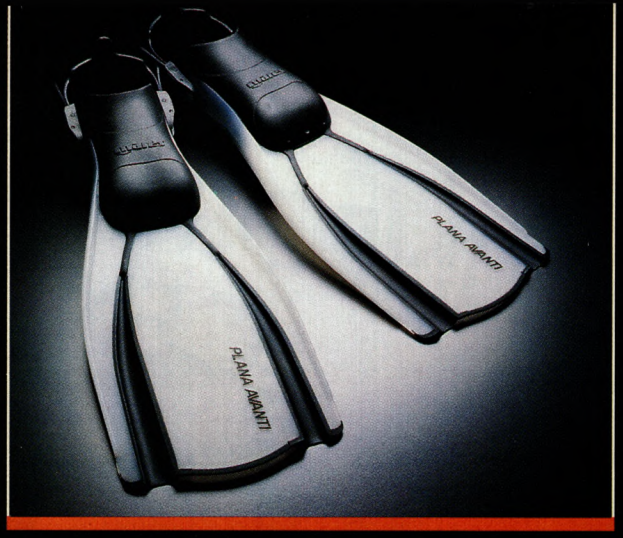
The final piece of dirty trick politics was the last minute insertion of the civil penalties clause in HR 74. This was done in secret and by some nameless, faceless, "staff" members and then announced at a subcommittee hearing when it was too late to rally any protest.

And, this is not the end of it. Once this bill is passed into law, these same clever forces will begin developing regulations, rules and restrictions that might very well strangle sport diving in America. Because of the way the bill is written, it is quite conceivable that divers may have to purchase wreck diving licenses, be specially taxed for the funding of a "shipwreck agency," and be subjected to arrest at sea or U/W because they have unwittingly dived on a wreck declared off limits by some back room bureaucrat.

Does any of this sound fair to you? Do you feel comfortable knowing your hard earned tax dollars are being used in a conspiracy to rob you of your personal rights? If the answer is "no," then get off your duff and send a telegram or letter of protest *today* to:

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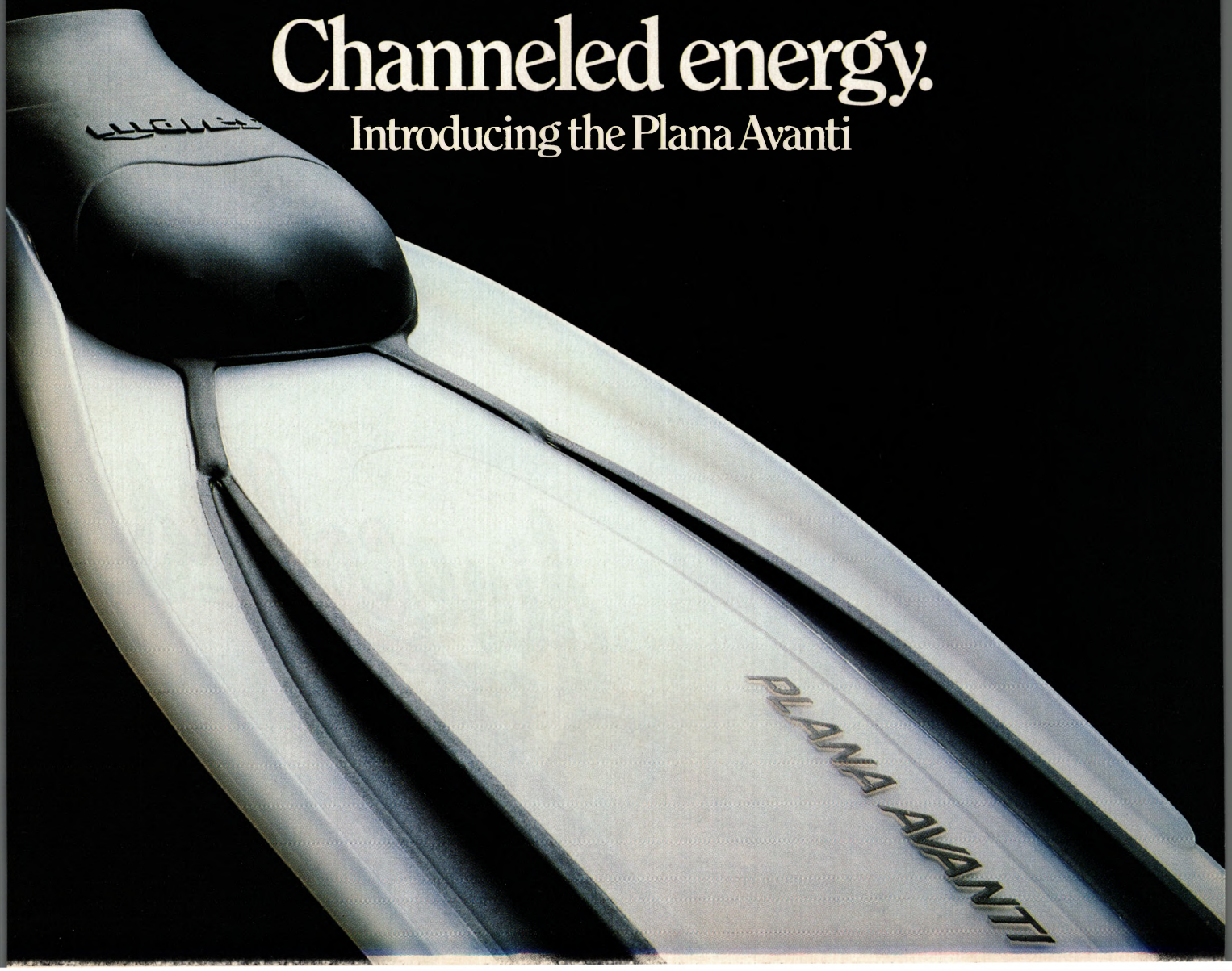
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Scuba Quiz

Category: Equipment

Topic: Drysuit Buoyancy Control

By Dennis Graver

Drysuits are increasing in popularity because of the warmth and comfort they provide. Diving in a drysuit is *not* as simple as diving in a wetsuit, however, owing to buoyancy considerations. This month's quiz tests what you know about drysuit buoyancy control. If you are unacquainted with these suits, you will learn a great deal by contemplating the questions and reading the answers, which are on the next page.

1. Special training for drysuit buoyancy control is:
- ☐ A. Necessary
- ☐ B. Recommended
- ☐ C. Mandatory
- ☐ D. A and B, but not C

2. When a BC is worn with a drysuit, it should be used primarily to:
- ☐ A. Compensate for suit compression
- ☐ B. Offset heaviness of small objects collected
- ☐ C. Provide positive buoyancy at the surface
- ☐ D. All of the above

3. When diving in a drysuit and a BC, which of the following is the correct action for an ascent.
- ☐ A. Vent air from the suit and control buoyancy with the BC during the ascent.
- ☐ B. Vent air from the BC and control buoyancy with the drysuit during ascent.
- ☐ C. Control buoyancy by venting both the drysuit and the BC during ascent.
- ☐ D. How buoyancy is controlled makes no difference as long as it is controlled.

4. The type of exhaust valve preferred for drysuits is the:
- ☐ A. Manual exhaust valve
- ☐ B. Automatic exhaust valve
- ☐ C. Low pressure deflation valve
- ☐ D. B or C, but not A

5. To prevent ballooning of the legs in a drysuit when inverted, a diver should:
- ☐ A. Select a suit with snug-fitting legs
- ☐ B. Wear ankleweights
- ☐ C. Dive with a minimal amount of air in the suit
- ☐ D. All of the above

6. The greatest changes in buoyancy occur when diving with which of the following drysuit configurations:
- ☐ A. Fabric suit with pile undergarments
- ☐ B. Foam neoprene suit with pile undergarments
- ☐ C. Foam neoprene suit with no undergarments
- ☐ D. Fabric suit with non-compressible undergarments

7. Select all of the incorrect statements regarding weighting for drysuit diving.
- ☐ A. Fabric drysuits require no more weight than wetsuits.
- ☐ B. Drysuit divers must dive overweighted to maintain control.
- ☐ C. Ankleweights are required for drysuit diving.
- ☐ D. Weightbelt harnesses are recommended to help support drysuit weights.

8. Buoyancy should be controlled during descent by adding air to the:
- ☐ A. Drysuit only
- ☐ B. BC only
- ☐ C. Drysuit more than the BC
- ☐ D. BC more than the drysuit

9. An ascent with a drysuit should be made:
- ☐ A. At the same rate as with a wetsuit
- ☐ B. Slightly faster than with a wetsuit
- ☐ C. Slightly slower than with a wetsuit
- ☐ D. Considerably slower than with a wetsuit

10. Buoyancy difficulties for divers wearing drysuits are most likely to occur from:
- ☐ A. Depth variations while diving
- ☐ B. Sticking low pressure inflator valves
- ☐ C. Inadequate exhaust valves
- ☐ D. Overweighting offset with air in the drysuit

11. Arrange in order the following steps a drysuit diver should take if he or she starts to float upward.
- ☐ A. Get upright and vent excess air from the exhaust valve
- ☐ B. Get upright and vent excess air from a wrist seal
- ☐ C. Swim down strongly to the bottom or for at least 15 feet
- ☐ D. Assume a flared position to slow ascent rate

12. Which of the following rare situations at depth poses the most serious drysuit buoyancy problem:
- ☐ A. A completely flooded drysuit
- ☐ B. A hand trapped between the inflator valve and the BC
- ☐ C. A dropped weightbelt
- ☐ D. A stuck low pressure inflator valve

13. Drysuit buoyancy control is most difficult during:
- ☐ A. Descents
- ☐ B. Depth changes
- ☐ C. Ascents
- ☐ D. The degree of difficulty is constant

14. Owing to buoyancy control problems, the use of drysuits should be limited to advanced and leadership level divers.
- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

Scuba Quiz

Answers: Drysuit Buoyancy Control

1. D. A and B, but not C. You need to be trained in drysuit diving techniques in order to use such a garment safely. Although training is not mandatory, it is recommended by the suit manufacturers and by diver training agencies. Some of these latter even offer specialty certification for drysuit courses. Many retailers provide training to customers who purchase drysuits.

2. D. Do all of the above. Many drysuit divers are overweighted and have too much air in their suits. This can lead to serious buoyancy problems. Proper weighting is important for safety. Only enough air should be admitted to the suit to prevent squeeze. All other buoyancy control should be done with the BC.

3. B. Vent air from the BC and control buoyancy with the drysuit during ascent. When your buoyancy is proper at depth, you become buoyant soon after beginning to ascend in a drysuit. Venting the BC allows you to concentrate on buoyancy control with the suit, which requires more attention and more frequent venting than a BC.

4. B. Automatic exhaust valve. A constant volume valve keeps your buoyancy constant throughout an ascent as long as the valve is maintained at the proper level and is oriented correctly. This feature greatly simplifies drysuit buoyancy control and is very desirable.

5. C. Dive with a minimal amount of air in the suit. Answers A and B can help reduce the ballooning problem somewhat, but these actions are not nearly as important as preventing large air shifts in the suit. These shifts usually result from large amounts of air needed to compensate for excessive weight. A key to drysuit control is to use the minimal amounts of both lead weights and suit air.

6. B. Foam neoprene suit with pile undergarments. During descents with this configuration, loss of buoyancy results from compression. Fabric suits do not compress. Some types of undergarments compress less than others. Keep these factors in mind when selecting a drysuit and undergarments.

7. All statements are incorrect. Drysuits do require more weight than wetsuits, but not as much as many divers believe. Buoyancy control is actually *more* difficult for an overweighted drysuit diver. Ankleweights may help distribute weight, but they are not required. It is recommended that weightbelt harnesses *not* be used.

8. C. The drysuit more than the BC. Suit squeeze is prevented by adding air to the suit during descent, but only enough air should be admitted to prevent a squeeze. I am re-emphasizing that all of the air needed to achieve neutral buoyancy when diving with a drysuit should *not* be retained.

9. C. Slightly slower than with a wetsuit. It takes time for some of the air in a drysuit to migrate through the undergarments and make its way to the exhaust valve. Ascending slowly provides time for this and results in a more controlled ascent. Be attentive to your buoyancy constantly during ascents with drysuits.

10. D. Overweighting offset by air in the drysuit. The more air in the suit, the greater its volume change with depth changes and the greater the change in buoyancy. An overweighted diver with a large air bubble in a drysuit can start to drift upward just by raising the feet of the suit a few feet while diving. As is typical of diving, the misuse of equipment causes many more problems than the equipment itself.

11. C, A, B, D. Swim down to compress the air in the suit and reduce buoyancy, then invert and vent the suit with the exhaust valve. If buoyancy remains excessive, vent air from a wrist seal or the neck seal. If unable to regain control, flare out to increase your cross-sectional area. This will slow an out-of-control ascent as much as possible.

12. B. A hand trapped between the inflator valve and the BC. Accidents have occurred because divers have reached under their BCs to activate the suit inflator valve. The expansion of the suit trapped their hands and held the inflator valve in the open position.

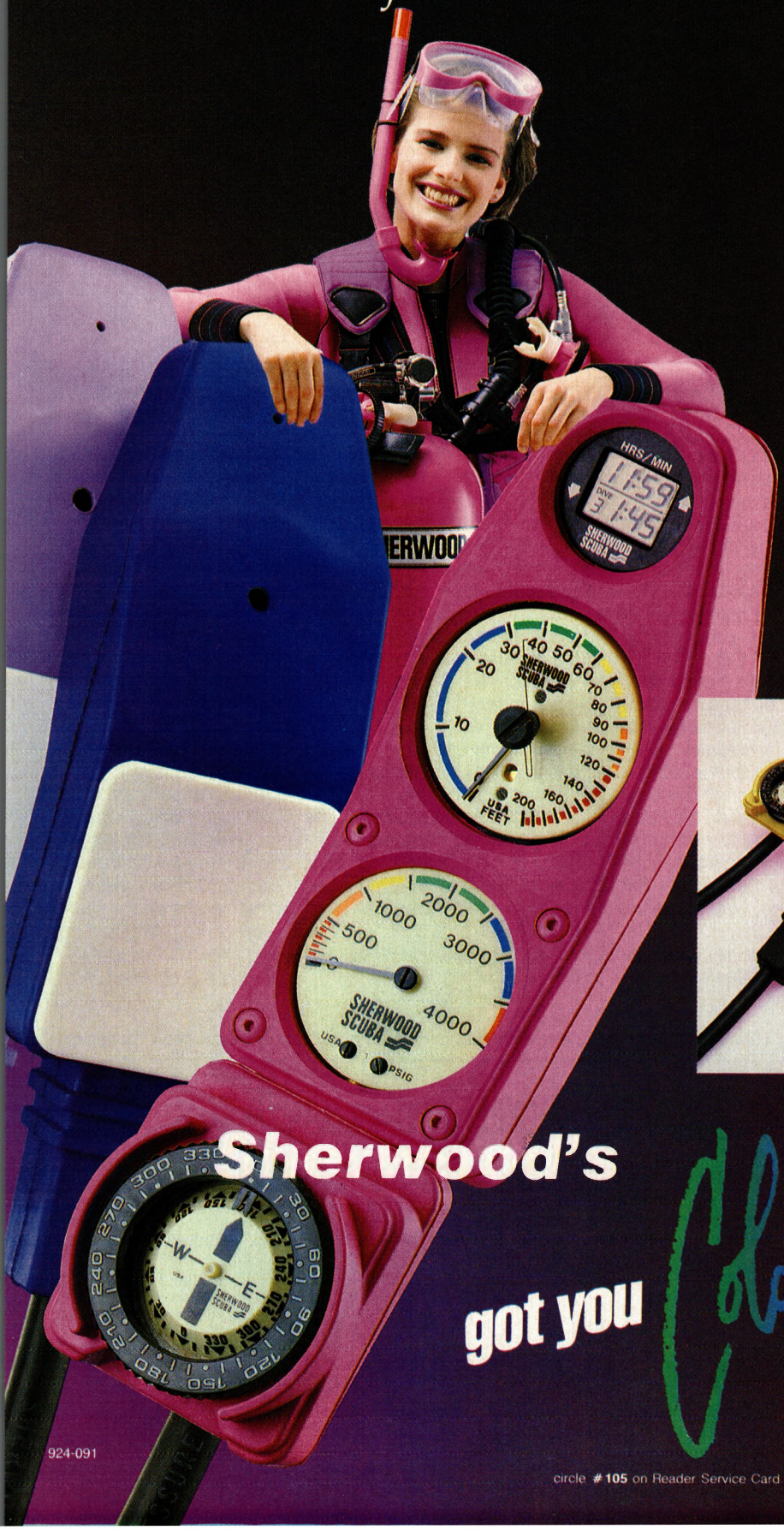
13. C. Ascents. It is easier to admit air to a drysuit than it is to exhaust it. Ascending under control is not difficult, but it does take training and practice. When performed correctly, you can stop and hover at any time during an ascent by simply exhaling.

14. B. False. Certified divers who learn to manage drysuits under controlled conditions can dive safely. Training in the use of drysuits is more important than a diver's level of certification.

Drysuits are safe and easy to use once you have received training. I do most of my diving in a drysuit. Drysuit diving is definitely warmer and more comfortable than wetsuit diving. If you dive in cold water, try one!

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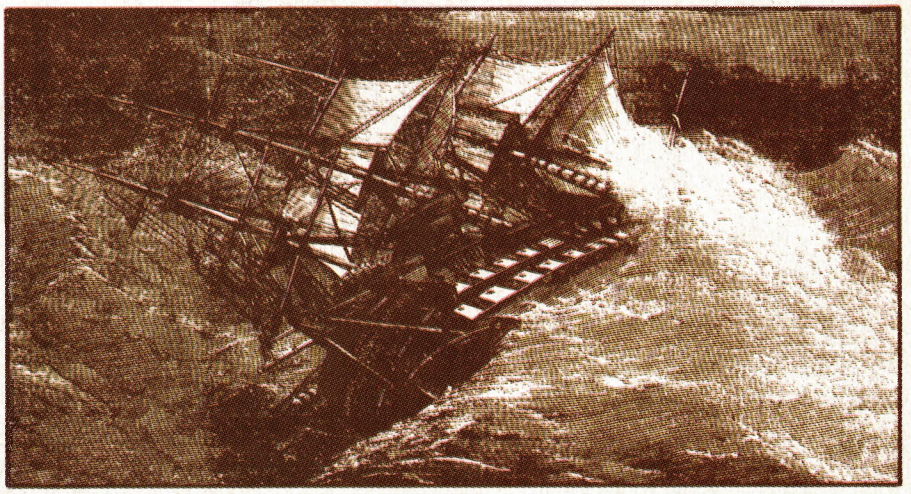
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Wreck Facts

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

Perhaps it has happened to you at a party where you knew few of the guests. You kept your promise to your spouse—you didn't bore everybody with your one note monologue on the joys of diving. But, alas, one of the guests started it. Some guy said he had been to Peoria; you thought he said euphoria and you started to talk diving.

When you stopped to catch your breath, one of your listeners admitted he just couldn't understand "those shipwreck divers and all that junk they find."

"One man's junk is another man's treasure," you remind him. "What do you collect?" Sheepishly, he admits a weakness for barbed wire. "Barbed wire!" you exclaim. "You have your nerve to" He never lets you finish, launching a dissertation on the glory of barbed wire, the Barbed Wire Club of America and how the Old West couldn't have been settled without the stuff.

Well, you understand. People collect everything under the sun and if it turns them on, that's fine with me. But don't let anybody knock shipwreck divers and their treasures, whatever they might be.

Steve Giles, Sun Valley, California is a California Wreck Diver and brass collector who has retrieved his share of shipwreck goodies throughout the years. One of his favorite wrecks is the USS *John Butler*, a 306 foot navy destroyer escort sunk in 90 feet of water off San Clemente. Gauges, plaques, portholes, you name it—Steve has brought them up. After an article by Giles appeared in SDM (October '84), a former *Butler* captain wrote the magazine. The letter was forwarded to Giles, who began corresponding with the captain and sent him some *Butler* brass to be displayed in a museum in Nashville, Tennessee. Steve says the captain wrote and thanked him and asked that he give the old gal a pat on the fantail the next time he visits her.

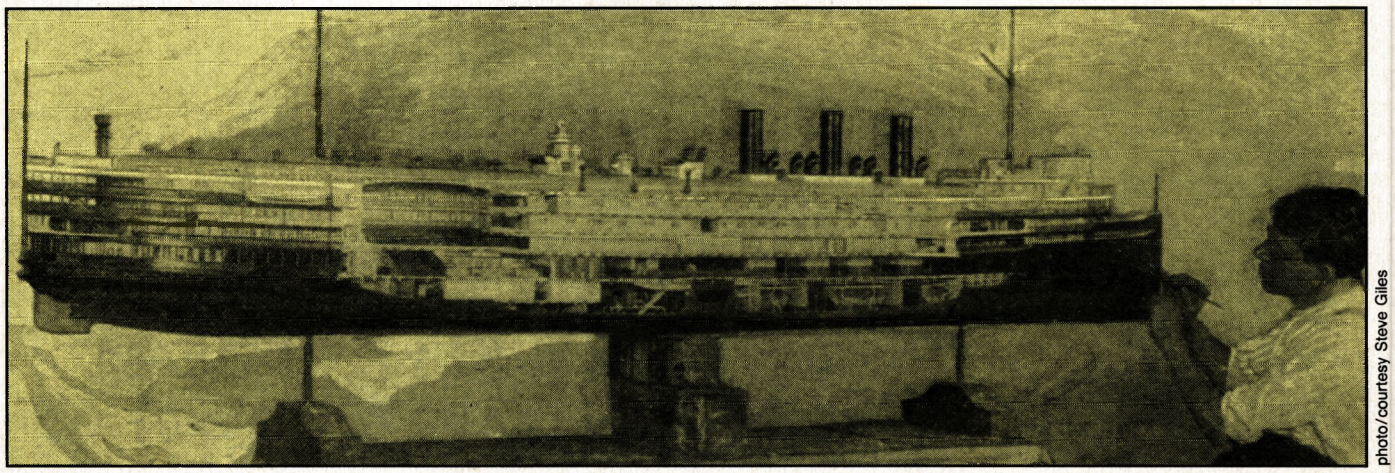
Giles also is a ships' photo buff. He sent me an interesting shot of a model of the SS *Greater Detroit*, a Great Lakes steamer later converted to a barge and scrapped when she became obsolete. Too bad, Steve—I was hoping I could locate her so you could add more goodies to your collection.

It did my heart good to read the headline: Massachusetts Claim to Pirate Ship is Denied. A superior court judge ruled the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has no rights to the wreck of a pirate ship found by salvor Barry Clifford five years ago off Cape Cod. The Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources tried to claim the wreck through a 1953 Submerged Land Act that grew out of a dispute in California over offshore drilling. But the judge ruled this conflicted with Federal Admiralty Law under which Clifford made his claim. (This is the same law that the treacherous Abandoned Shipwreck Act has been trying to overthrow. See Wreck Facts, August 1987). Clifford, who researched and discovered Black Sam Bellamy's 1717 galley, *Wydah*, has retrieved cannons, coins and other artifacts from the wreck. Although he has taken many risks, spent more than $1 million and expressed interest in starting a pirate museum, the state continued to harass him. Officials from Massachusetts were sure they were going to win in court and the judge's decision shocked them. Now, instead of 25 percent of the treasure Clifford had agreed to give the state before officials schemed against him, Massachusetts gets nothing!

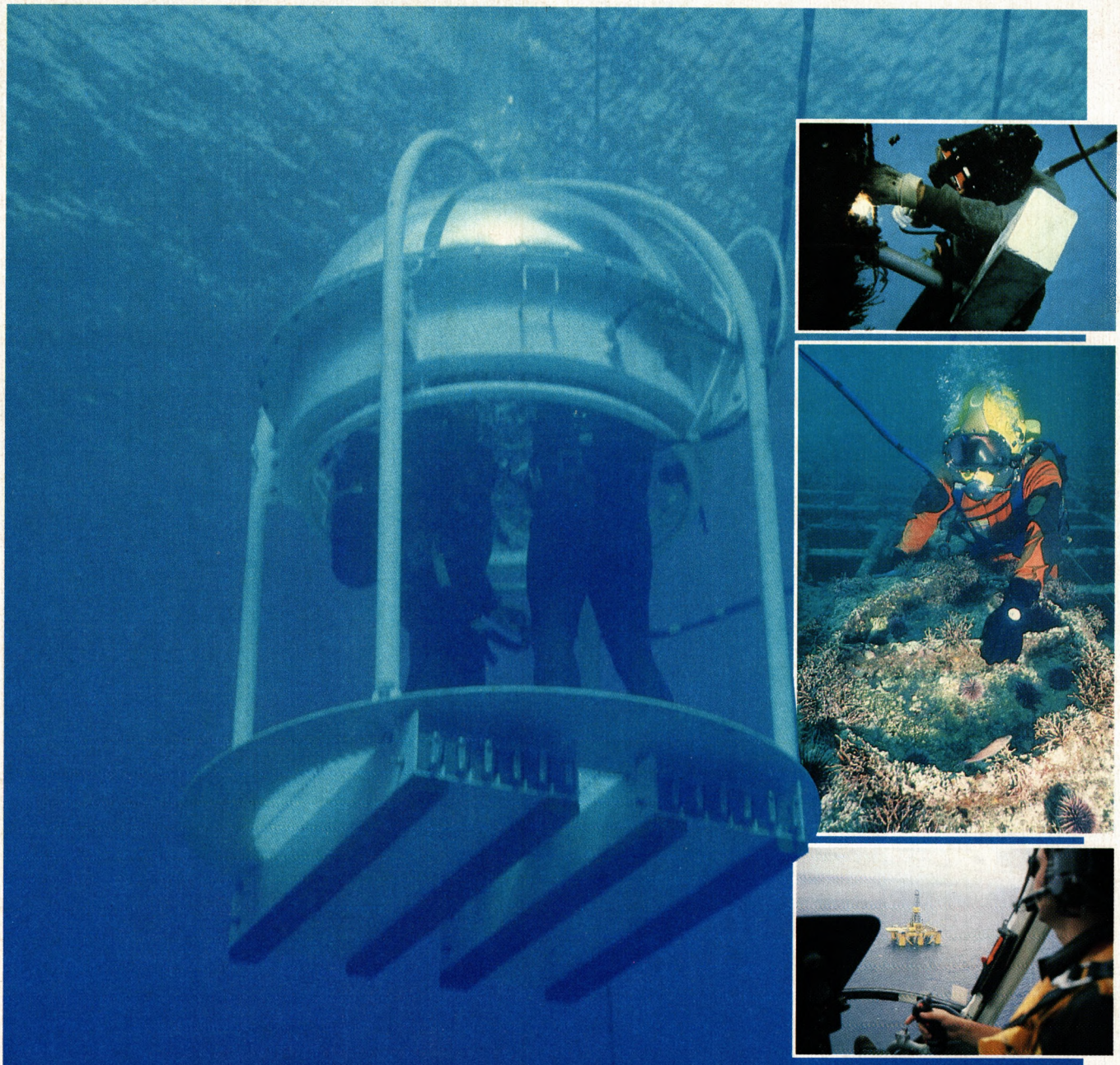
Joe Zarzynski, Wilton, New York sent me a clipping from a New England newspaper that is rather ironic. Less than two months after the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lost its case on the *Wydah*, the state announced a sunken ship search. The National Park Service planned to "start searching the ocean floor off Cape Cod for sunken ships and their cargoes." About 30 divers were to begin searching 4,500 acres off the Cape Cod National Seashore from Wellfleet to Provincetown. I didn't realize the govern-

(Continued on Page 162)

This old photo shows a model of the Great Lakes steamer *Greater Detroit*, which was later converted into a barge, then scrapped.



photo/courtesy Steve Giles



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MICRO COOKING SEAFOOD

BY CHRIS KILBRIDE

If you have a microwave oven and haven't used it for cooking seafood, you are in for a treat! Your catch can be prepared tastefully and quickly after a fun day of diving. Since microwaving is a relatively new method of cooking, it is best to learn all you can so that your meals will be successful. As a diver and home economist, I'd like to exchange some helpful tips and experiences in microwaving seafood.

Choose the plate or dish in which you wish to serve your fish carefully. In order to hold the juices and give some height so the covering or wrap will not touch the food, select dishes with sides—such as a glass pie plate. It is not necessary to turn fish fillets over when microwaving, just arrange the thickest parts toward the outer edge of the dish, the thinner sections toward the center. It is possible to overlap the thinner parts to equal the thickness of the other pieces.





photos/courtesy Florida Dept. of Natural Resources

If used properly, your microwave oven can cook a variety of delicious seafood dishes. Above: Microwaved bluefish with tangy glaze. Left: Lettuce baked lobster tails.

Glass, ceramic and many hard plastic dishes can be used, but here's a test to check if a dish is microwave safe. (1) Place the dish in the microwave. (2) Fill a non-metal measuring cup with one cup of water and place it one to two inches from the dish (the water will absorb the microwave energy). (3) Turn the microwave oven on high for one and one-half to two minutes. If the dish is very warm or hot to the touch, don't use it. Don't use dishes with metallic trim or utensils with metal screws, bands or handles.

Generally, most fish and seafood will splatter, so it is best to cover your dish before cooking. You can use plastic wrap, wax paper or the (glass) cover that came with your dish. These will help hold the moisture in the food. Napkins or paper towels (except those specially designed for microwave use) will become wet and cling to the food, so they are not recommended. Remember that coatings will become soggy and cheese toppings should only be put on for the last 15-20 seconds—just enough time to melt them. Cheese becomes hard if baked the full time on top of a dish. However, cheese blended in a casserole will be fine.

The microwave can be used for all methods of fish cookery except frying. Deep frying is extremely dangerous and shallow frying is not possible. For those who wish to try a simulated frying, coat the fish in egg and crumbs, and microwave in one tablespoon of oil.

The test for doneness for fish or other seafood is when it flakes easily and has an opaque look. Overcooking even by one minute will leave it hard and inedible. All seafood cooks quickly, so it is best to check the dish every one to two minutes. Unless your microwave has a carousel, rotate the dish with several one-quarter turns to ensure even cooking. As a gen-

(Continued on Page 150)

U/W GREETING CARDS



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROL L. ROMPF

"And what to my wondering eyes should appear! But, Santa, decked out—in scuba gear?!" Yes, dive buddies, there is a Scuba Claus! He was seen diving with Exuma Aquatics in the Bahamas in 1986 and from the *Cayman Aggressor II* in 1987. Those who witnessed him diving found it fascinating! I thought you might enjoy his story.

Early in 1985 I began to wonder what direction my U/W photography was going to take. I had accumulated thousands of slides, but didn't know how to use them besides in shows I frequently produced for the dive clubs and other organizations in Lexington, Kentucky. Like all U/W photographers, I wanted to be published, but I also wanted to do something a bit different. The impetus for an U/W greeting card company came from a couple of directions: from being unable to find any cards with underwater photos on them for my own use and from listening closely to my dive buddies about what they liked to buy that was diving related. The most common complaints I heard from my friends were that everything was so expensive and there were few gift items. Most of these divers owned full sets of gear and accessories, but still wanted to spend money!

I also heard students and newly certified divers trying to describe some of their U/W visions with great difficulty: "Well, it's a long, snake-like, green thing called a moray eel, and it's so weird when it opens its mouth" I am probably the world's

(Continued on Page 156)

SDM'S **Nikonos Photo Course**



LESSON XI:

Using TTL Flash For Macro

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

TTL automatic exposure U/W strobes are relatively new. They began appearing with the advent of the Nikonos V. This is the first Nikonos equipped with a TTL flash sensor and five pin connector for dedicated flash circuitry. In essence, the TTL strobe and Nikonos V can communicate with each other electronically.

The concept of TTL exposure control is fairly simple. Light emanating from the strobe strikes the subject, reflects back through the lens and strikes the film plane to make the picture. A sensor next to the film plane measures the amount of light striking the film and signals the strobe when there is sufficient exposure. The strobe then shuts off the flash. This is called TTL because exposure is automatically controlled by a sensor that reads the light coming Through The Lens.

This cutoff of the flash is called quenching and occurs in a microsecond. The speed at which a TTL strobe and camera can sense the proper amount of light and cutoff the flash is almost mind boggling. In addition to cutting off the duration of flash, a TTL strobe can also send messages to the camera user. For example, it can tell when the strobe has recycled and is ready to fire. After firing, some TTL strobe models will also signal whether or not there was sufficient flash for a correct exposure at the f/stop that was selected. The TTL strobe actually goes through four separate phases of operation: 1) power recycle; 2) ready to fire; 3) fire; 4) confirmation.

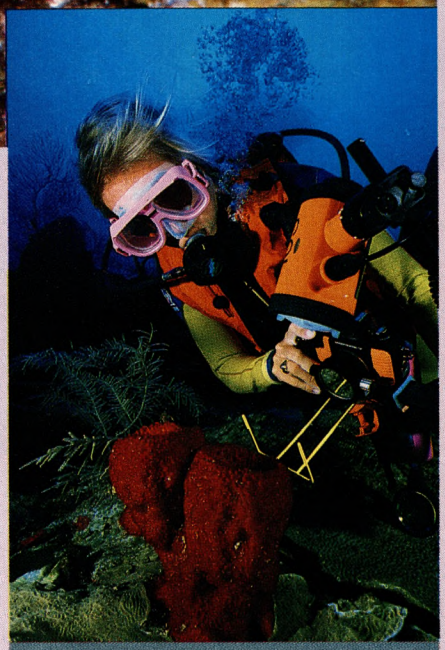
BENEFITS OF TTL FLASH

The major benefit of TTL exposure control is that the camera and strobe automatically compensate for varying subject reflectivity and varying distances. TTL flash is especially helpful with light colored subjects, which would normally reflect a great deal of light and overexpose the picture.

Under the right circumstances, TTL flash will allow you to shoot repeatedly without constantly measuring distances, computing exposures and adjusting apertures. You can devote more of your time and attention to tracking the subject and composing the picture.

Most importantly, the TTL strobe provides confirmation of correct exposure. This signal can be helpful in setting up a near perfect exposure every time. If the aperture was incorrect, the distance too great or the subject reflectivity insufficient, the TTL strobe will promptly tell you via a blinking light.

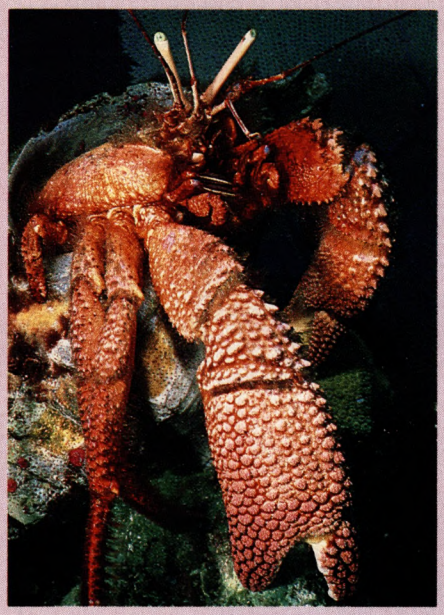
One more advantage of TTL strobes is they can be quickly switched to manual mode for special lighting situations. Several TTL strobe models offer a selection of different manual flash power outputs ranging from full to 1/16th power.



Top: A 1:3 macro shot of a goldentail moray eel—photographed with TTL strobe illumination. Above: An underwater photographer uses a 1:3 extension tube/framer and SB-103 TTL strobe to shoot a red sponge.

TTL STROBES FOR MACRO

Several companies offer small TTL strobes that are ideal for macro U/W photography. Our chart shows performance data for these mini TTL models.





The major benefit of TTL exposure control is that the camera and strobe automatically compensate for varying subject reflectivity and distance. Left: A 1:3 macro shot of a hermit crab. Above: A 1:2 macro shot of a tiny shrimp on coral.

TTL STROBE SELECTION

In selecting the TTL strobe best suited for you, it is important to go over the seven basic performance criteria, plus a special, eighth consideration—the type of confirmation signal.

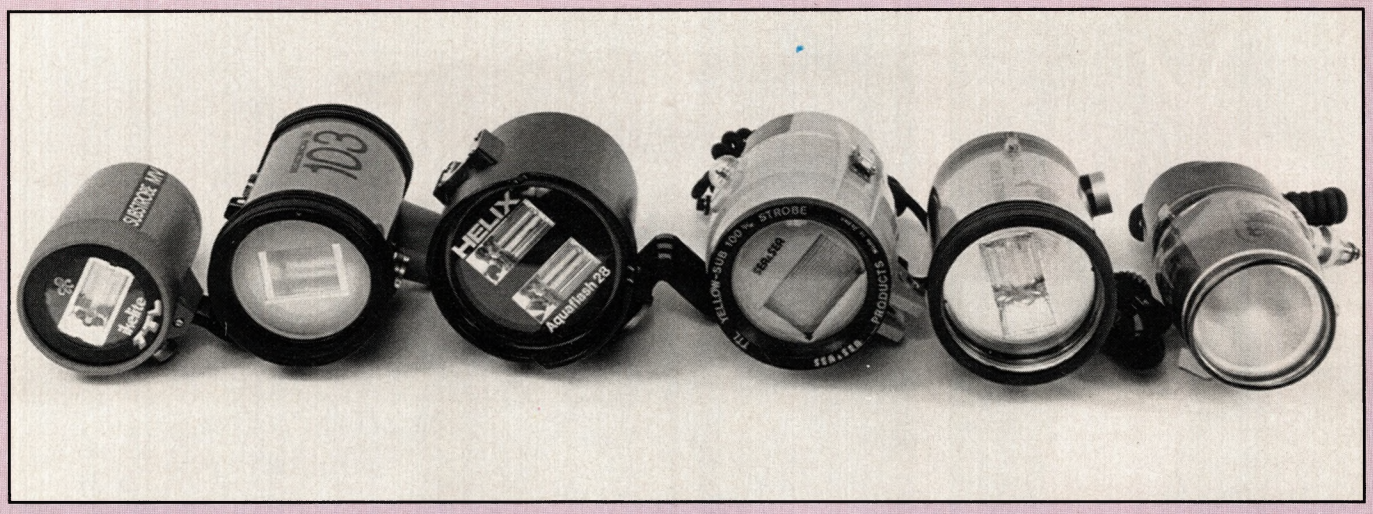
Flash Size: While the size of the strobe head is not normally an important selection criteria, it can be a significant factor in macro photography. Much of this activity occurs in narrow crevices, small coral caves and the overhangs where macro critters live. At these close quarters strobe size does become critical and you will need to give it some consideration.

Beam Angle: Macro underwater is the one type of photography where a narrow beam angle can be desirable. It allows better control of backlighting or sidelighting. Some TTL strobe models offer the option of adjustable beam angle through the use of a beam spreader or diffuser. Such devices can be very handy for macro photography since they soften the

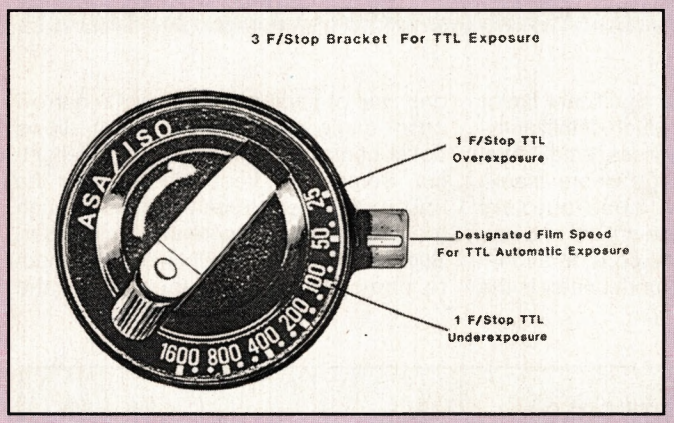
TTL MINI STROBES
AUTOMATIC AND MANUAL EXPOSURE

Mfg.	Model	Head Size (diameter)	Beam Angle (degrees)	Beam Spreader	Color Temp.	*U/W Guide No.	Batteries	Manual Power Modes	**Recycle Time (seconds)	No. Flashes	Extras	Depth Tested (feet)
Berry Scuba	Whale Strobe TTL II	7 x 4"	65	Yes (95 degrees)	5,600°K	32	4 AA	Full 1/4	7 2	130 450	• Confirm Signal • Test Fire	165
Helix	Aqua Flash 28 TTL	6 x 5"	70	Yes (95 degrees)	5,600°K	40	6 AA	Full 1/4	10 1	80 300	• Slave • Confirm Signal • Test Fire	165
Ikelite	Substrobe MV	4.5 x 3.5"	65	No	5,800°K	20	4 AA	Full	5	250	• Interchangeable sync cords	300
Nikon	SB-103 Speedlight	7 x 4"	65	Yes (95 degrees)	5,500°K	24	4 AA	Full 1/4 1/16	12 4 1	130 450 1,400	• Confirm Signal	160
Sea & Sea	YS-100 TTL	6 x 4"	65	Yes (80 degrees)	5,400°K	32	4 AA	Full 1/2 1/4 1/8	12 12 12 12	130 250 450 900	• Slave • Audio Ready • Exposure Calculator	200
Sea & Sea	YS-50 TTL	6 x 3"	72	No	5,400°K	22	4 AA	Full	10	140		200

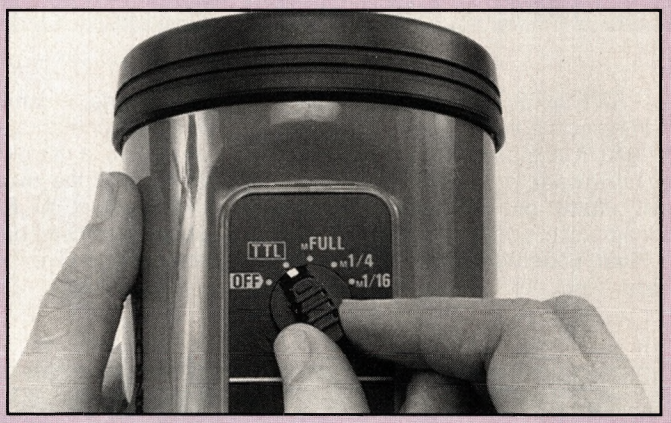
* U/W Guide Number based on ISO 50 film with strobe set on full power manual.
** Recycle times and number of flashes based on alkaline batteries. Rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries produce faster recycle times but fewer flashes.



Left to right: Ikelite Substrobe MV, SB-103, Helix Aquaflash 28 TTL, Sea & Sea YS-100 TTL, Whale Strobe TTL-II and YS-50 TTL.



You can bracket your exposures by resetting the film speed dial. The above suggested settings would be for ISO 50 film.



TTL strobes can be used on manual or on automatic. The SB-103 has a TTL setting and three manual exposure power settings.

flash and warm the color as well as expanding the beam angle.

Power Output: This can be an important consideration since all macro exposures should be made at f/22. Power output is generally measured in a Guide Number (GN) for a specific film speed. These are usually based on full power manual flash output of the strobe. For the purpose of macro photography, the most critical measurement is the underwater guide number for a slow film speed such as ISO 50.

Color Temperature: This will affect the look of your photographs and can be an important consideration. The color temperature of daylight film (either slide or print) is set at 5,500° Kelvin. If you want to match the film temperature, your flash should come within 200-300 degrees of this.

However, some macro photographers prefer to enhance the look of their shots by using a warmer or cooler temperature flash. Cooler temperature flash units are excellent for enhancing macro shots with blue or purple subjects. Warmer temperature flash units are good for enhancing macro photos with red or orange subjects. This is why there is such a wide range of color temperatures among underwater flash units.

Power Source: The type of power source used by the flash is an important consideration among divers. Rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery units are less expensive over the long run because the batteries can be charged repeatedly at little cost.

Flash units using dry cell batteries are more desirable when charging is either difficult or not possible. Such situations include overseas travel to remote dive destinations or when you are in foreign countries that have different electrical current. There are also many divers who prefer not to deal with the nightly chore of charging batteries.

Number of Flashes: This dictates how many rolls of film you may shoot before needing a battery change. It should be remembered that macro requires total flash, which means one flash per film frame or 36 flashes per roll. The number of flashes is generally measured in a full power manual mode since the number of TTL flashes can vary greatly, depending on distance.

Recycle Time: Repeated shots of the same creature require rapid firing. If you intend to shoot three pictures of a shrimp dancing across a coral head you will have to shoot fast. Recycle time is also measured at full power manual mode since the time varies greatly at TTL mode. TTL strobes with fractional power modes, such as one-quarter power, offer faster recycle times for rapid fire situations.

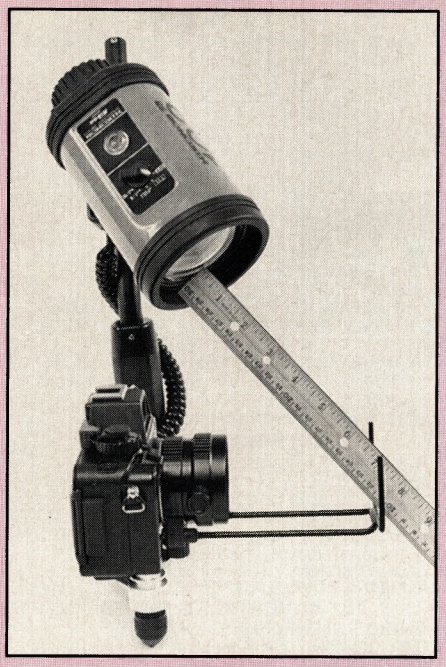
TTL EXPOSURE PROCEDURE

Because TTL exposure is slightly more sophisticated than manual, be careful to make all of the necessary adjustments. The following is a step-by-step procedure for setting up a TTL flash picture:

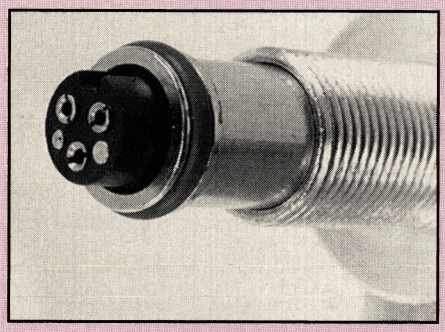
1) Set the speed dial on your camera for the ISO number of the film you are using. This will probably be ISO 50 for color slide film or ISO 100 for color print film.

2) Set the shutter speed dial to A for Automatic exposure.

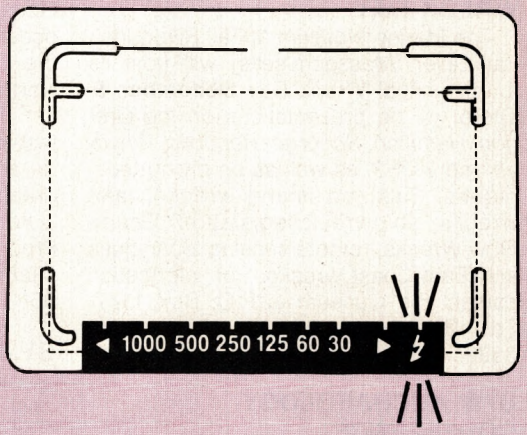
3) Set the strobe power switch to TTL. Now the strobe and camera are matched







Above left: Establish the underexposure limit and move the strobe in one inch for ideal macro distance. Left: TTL strobes use a five pin sync cord connector. Above: Several TTL strobes offer snap-on diffusers as options. Right: A blinking ready light after the strobe has fired indicates that, although the strobe was fired at full power, the picture may be underexposed.



for automatic TTL exposure control. Check the Nikonos V data display for the appearance of the glowing red lightning bolt symbol that indicates the strobe is ready to fire.

4) Set the lens focus distance for the minimum distance of 2.75 feet for the 35mm lens or 2 feet for the 28.

5) Set the lens aperture at f/22.

6) Set the flash distance appropriate for the extension tube and strobe being used. Refer to the strobe instruction manual for settings.

7) Fire a test shot and check for the confirmation of correct exposure. If there is no confirmation or there is a blinking exposure error signal, move the strobe closer to the framer and test again.

SETTING THE BASIC TTL FLASH DISTANCE

The flash distance should be the same as that used with manual exposure strobes. This will range from ten inches for a 1:3 macro tube to two inches for a 2:1 macro tube. You may have to move the strobe one to two inches closer to ensure that your flash is within the exposure range for the TTL sensor.

Some strobes (such as the SB-103) have a built-in warning system that indicates you have exceeded the range of TTL exposure. A ready light that blinks after the strobe has fired indicates that although it was fired at full power the picture may be underexposed. If this occurs, move the strobe one to two inches closer.

BRACKETING BY ISO SETTINGS

You cannot bracket your TTL flash exposures in the same manner as manual flash exposures. This is because the TTL strobe is always seeking to make what it thinks is the correct exposure. However, you can fool a TTL strobe into bracketing simply by adjusting the ISO film speed dial. Doubling or halving the set ISO number will achieve an overexposure or underexposure of one full f/stop. For example, if you are using ISO 50 film, you can achieve a three f/stop stop bracket by shooting one picture at ISO 50, the next at ISO 25 and the third at ISO 100.

LIMITATIONS OF TTL FLASH

TTL equipment can work quite well under the right circumstances. There are, however, some limitations. The subject being photographed should be in the center of the picture frame since this is the area being scanned by the camera sensor. The best results are achieved when there is a reflective background or subject throughout the picture area. TTL exposure sensors can be fooled by an open water background and thus overexpose the subject.

TTL exposure control is aperture priority, which means the TTL sensor and strobe adjust for the aperture that has been set. However, if the aperture is too small (such as f/22), the strobe may not have sufficient power to operate properly. Since all macro pictures should be shot at f/22, it is important that the strobe be held close enough to ensure full function of the TTL system.

The benefit of TTL over manual is that the camera and TTL strobe will automatically compensate for differences in subject reflectivity.

Diver's Calendar

ROESSLER PRESENTATION

High Country Dive and Travel in Aurora, Colorado will host a slide presentation by author and underwater photographer Carl Roessler **December 4**. He will also judge two categories of slides (previously submitted) in a photo contest. Winning entries will be announced and shown during the show. A wine and cheese party and autograph reception will be held the following day at the dive store.

For information contact High Country Dive and Travel, 658 S. Havana St., Aurora, CO 80012; (303) 341-5735.

WRECK DAY

The Marine Museum at Fall River, Inc., Fall River, Massachusetts, will host its fourth annual Wreck Day **December 5**. There will be presentations on the *Oregon*, *Hamilton*, *Scourge*, *Republic*, *Whydah* and *U-853*, as well as on diving techniques, Falkland Island wrecks, lake wrecks, shipwreck legislation, Scapa Flow Wrecks, remote sensing techniques and East Coast wrecks. For information contact the museum at P.O. Box 1147, Fall River, MA 02722; (617) 674-3533.

U/W ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Society for Historical Archaeology will host its annual conference on historical and U/W archaeology **January 13-17** at Bally's Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

For information contact Donald Hardesty (ACUA), Department of Anthropology, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557.

CATALINA CLEAN-UP

The 1988 Avalon Underwater Clean-Up will be held **January 16** at Catalina Island, California. The harbor, Lover's Cove and the Underwater Park are targeted for the sweep. An awards ceremony (prizes for garbage) will be held in the Casino ballroom. A centennial celebratory coin toss from the Pleasure Pier will be held January 17. For information contact Bud or Nanci Davis, The Blue Dolphin House, P.O. Box 2605, Avalon, CA 90704; (213) 510-1811.

WRECK DIVERS BANQUET

The California Wreck Divers will host their annual awards banquet **January 23** on the S.S. *Princess Louise* in San Pedro, California. Ellsworth Boyd will be the keynote speaker.

For information contact David Lee at (818) 576-8293 or Jerry Parrott at (818) 367-5002 or write CWD, P.O. Box 10571, Marina del Rey, CA 90291.

CATALINA ISLAND PHOTO COMPETITION

The second annual Catalina Island Underwater Photo Competition will be held **February 5-7** on Catalina Island, California. the event includes a seminar, cocktail party, deluxe brunch, film, awards and prizes.

For information call Bud or Nanci Davis (213) 510-1811 or write Blue Dolphin House, P.O. Box 2605, Avalon, CA 90704.

OCEAN EXPO '88

Ocean Expo Productions, Inc. will host Ocean Expo '88, a scuba diving and ocean sports show, **February 19-21** at the Coconut Grove Exhibition Center, North Miami, Florida. There will be exhibits, films, videos, lectures, a photo contest, door prizes, demonstrations, hands-on activities, pony rides and other children's events.

For information contact Ocean Expo Productions, 1141 NE 142nd St., North Miami, FL 33161; (305) 891-6095/891-6581.

ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW

The St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc. will host its 41st annual Shell Show at the Community Center, 1 Park Place and 106th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida **February 26-28**. Museum quality shell collections will be displayed and there will be shells and shell related items available for purchase.

For information contact the St. Petersburg Shell Club, c/o Betty Lipe, 440 75th Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33706; (813) 360-0586.

BOSTON DIVING SHOW

Bill Lovin will headline this year's Boston Diving Show **February 27** at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to the film show, there will be seminars and workshops.

For information contact Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

OFFICE BASED SPORTS MEDICINE

The fifth annual Office Based Sports Medicine program, a postgraduate, extension course in medical education, will be held **February 27-March 5** in Snowbird, Utah. The course is approved for ACCME, AMA and CMA credit.

For information contact the University of California, Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room U-569, San Francisco, CA 94143-0742; (415) 476-4251.

skin diver

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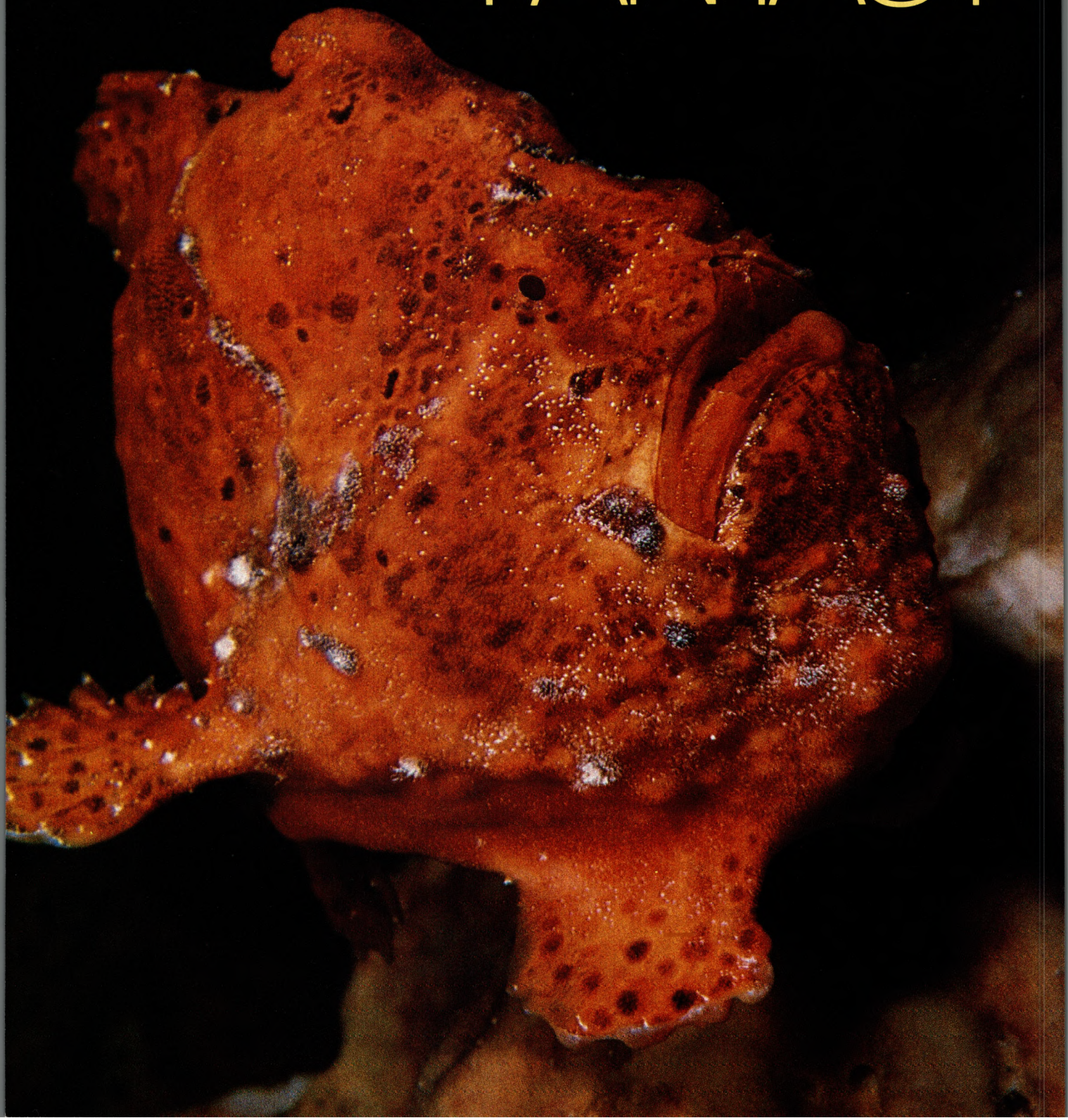
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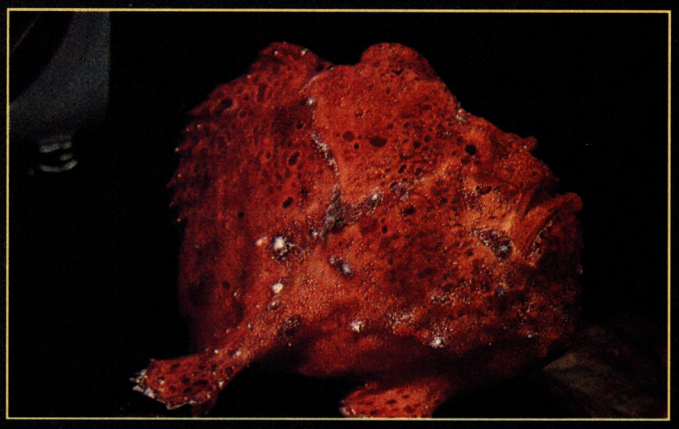
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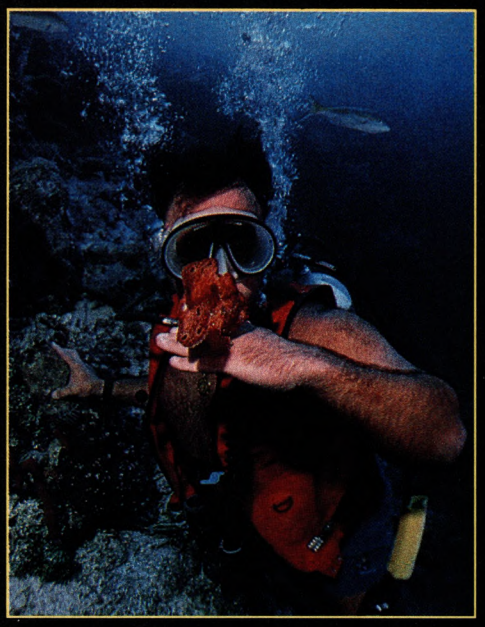
FROGFISH FANTASY





The fascinating frogfish is so ugly, it's beautiful. This bizarre creature comes in a variety of colors. The fish shown here was found off Grand Cayman.





TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

For many years, it was my secret fantasy to photograph a frogfish. This unique creature is one of the rarest fish a diver may encounter and one of the most fascinating. Until recently, I had only seen a few of these mysterious creatures and none of those encounters provided an opportunity for good photos.

What makes the frogfish so difficult to find? It is a small fish, generally measuring three to four inches in length. Solitary by nature, these fish are masters of disguise and usually blend in perfectly with their backgrounds. In many cases the frogfish looks much like a lump of dead coral lying motionless on the bottom. The only clue to its existence is a pair of small eyes and the crescent shape of its mouth. Many a diver has passed over a frogfish without noticing it.

Although the frogfish is capable of swimming, it prefers to spend the majority of its time motionless. This behavior is part of its hunting technique. The fish pretends to be a coral lump while it waits for an unsuspecting victim to venture close to its mouth. The frogfish then lures the prey closer by wiggling a small, fleshy appendage attached to a long thin stalk strategically placed directly above the mouth. When the intended meal is lured close enough, the frogfish opens its mouth wide and literally inhales it.

My fantasy included photographing a brightly colored frogfish—the rarest of the group. These creatures have been observed in a variety of colors. The more common are usually brown with small black spots. Some are mottled, some multi-colored and others, a pale lavender. The most striking of the species are brilliantly colored: crimson red, lemon yellow or Sunkist orange.

You can, therefore, imagine my excitement during a recent trip to Grand Cayman when Captain Wayne Hasson and Anne Davis invited me to dive and photograph an orange frogfish. Wayne and Anne operate the *Cayman Aggressor* live-aboards and spend much of their time exploring and charting new dive sites among the Cayman Islands.

Wayne has the uncanny ability to find and befriend unusual marine creatures. Over the years I have watched him handfeed barracudas, green morays, giant groupers, stingrays and other extraordinary animals. If it swims, hops or crawls, Wayne will usually find it and teach it to take food out of his hand.

Our frogfish adventure started early one morning in a skiff off Seven Mile Beach. Wayne and Anne had located a dive site where a frogfish could be found consistently. The circumstances were unusual. This particular frogfish lived on an orange sponge at 100 feet. Since these fish usually haunt the shallows and are often found under piers, this was contrary to normal frogfish behavior.

Sure enough, I found the frogfish exactly where Wayne had said it would be. I was immediately entranced by the creature's bizarre appearance. Its face was reminiscent of a miniature bulldog—so ugly, it was beautiful. The body was covered with a bumpy, warty skin, roughly textured. The little fish was perched upright on the sponge with its nose tilted toward the surface. It seemed to be clinging to the sponge by means of its two pectoral fins. These are equipped with tiny claws, much like toenails, and the little fish could actually walk along the rim of the sponge.

Since this was a planned encounter, I was prepared with the right photo equipment. I had rigged my Nikonos V with a 35mm lens and a 1:3 extension tube and framer. The frogfish fit in the framer perfectly; I would be able to capture its entire form on film. As for lighting, I used my trusty SB-103 strobe set on full power. An Ikelite Substrobe MS slave provided additional side lighting. The combination of the two strobes achieved sufficient light for an aperture of f/22, using Fujichrome 50 slide film.

As we gathered around the little orange frogfish, I could see the task was going to be a photographic challenge. At this depth, bottom time was severely limited, so there would be little time to get the shot. The fish was not particularly cooperative—it tended to turn its back to the macro framer. Anne and Wayne immediately came to the rescue by gently guiding the fish. Without ever touching the it, they succeeded in turning the creature around and it began to pose like a Hollywood star.

The short photo session was perhaps one of the most rewarding dives of my life. It is amazing how much joy can be derived from an encounter with one small, four inch fish. My fantasy has finally been fulfilled.

DIVE CENTER

SEASPORTS

IN THE HEART OF KEY WEST FLORIDA









TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG PERRINE

For divers as well as earthbound travelers it is the end of the rainbow. After U.S. Highway 1 threads its way thousands of miles from Canada down the East Coast of the United States, it finally arrives at Mile Marker 0 in Key West, Florida. This is the southernmost point in the United States, only 90 miles north of Cuba. Key West is a charming little island/city, steeped in history and atmosphere. One of the oldest settlements in South Florida, it predates the establishment of Miami and was of far greater importance historically. At one time it was Florida's largest city.

Established as a naval base for the forces combating pirates in the Gulf of Mexico, it was successively dependent upon wrecking (salvage), sponging, turtling, cigar-making, fishing, the military once again and, finally, tourism. Throughout its boom-and-bust history, the fortunes of the people of Key West have been tied inextricably to the sea. With the Gulf of Mexico on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, both the climate and the economy of Key West are controlled by warm saltwater. Even before the habitation of the island, Key West's reefs were extracting fortunes from the Spanish who passed there in their treasure ships. Some of these fortunes, such as those of the *Atocha*, are only now being yielded back up.

For divers wishing to experience those reefs, there are a number of pro dive shops in Key West. One, Seasports Dive Center, at the Lands End Marina, takes divers not only to the end of the rainbow, but beyond. It is the only dive center in the Florida Keys that offers trips to the fabled Dry Tortugas. This archipelago of uninhabited islands and cays stretches to the west from Key West and is where America's last truly wild reefs are found. The walls of the Seasports Dive Center are decorated with pictures of divers holding up fish as large as themselves taken in the Tortugas. Seasports offers three day trips aboard the 45 foot air-conditioned twin diesel *Mirage*. It accommodates a maximum of eight divers for liveaboard trips and is fully equipped with advanced navigational electronics, galley and compressor for unlimited diving. One-day trips to the Tortugas can be chartered utilizing the *Freeshaft*, a 35 foot Wellcraft Scarab. With its three outboards totalling 720 hp, it can rocket six passengers at speeds up to 80 mph, making the remote islands accessible for day trips in good weather.

Mirage also charters out to the historic World War II shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico. Again, Seasports is the only Keys shop that takes divers out to such remote sites as the wreck of the *Baja California*. A supply ship sunk by a German U-boat, it has live ammunition and the remains of half-track tanks. Sixty miles north of Key West, it rests in 110 feet of water, which is frequently crystal clear.

Other wrecks Seasports dives include:

The *Sturtivent*, a vintage four stacker destroyer that saw service in both world wars. Sunk by an allied mine in 1942, it rests in three pieces in 60 feet of water. Brass ammunition casings and large artillery shells can still be found.

The *Luchenbach*, a 400 foot freighter that was carrying one-sixth of the world's supply of tungsten. It, too, hit an Allied mine in 1942 and sank in 60 feet.

The *Alexander*, a destroyer escort in two pieces, parts of which reach the surface from a sand bottom at 30 feet.

There is also the *Cayman Salvager*, a 167 foot Navy salvage ship, sunk in 90 feet of water three years ago as part of the artificial reef program.

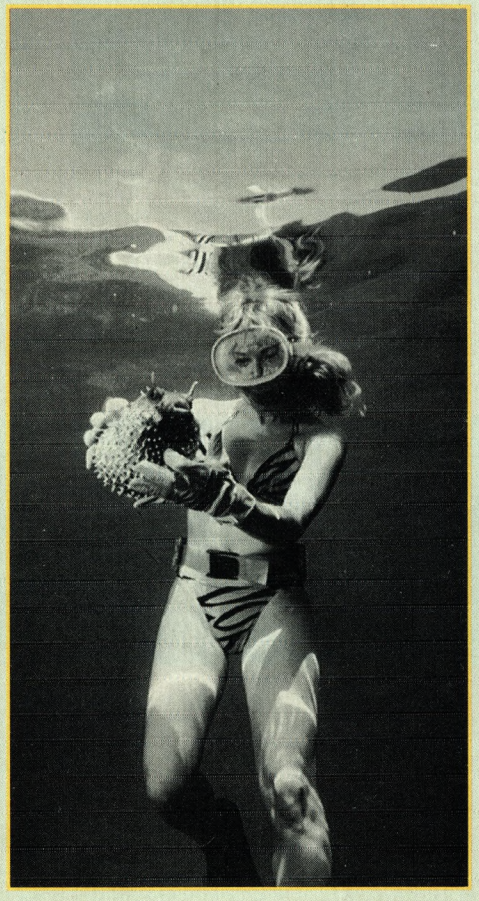
In addition to the *Mirage* and the *Freeshaft*, Seasports has two boats used primarily for diving reefs close to Key West. These are the 36 foot *Experience* and the 48 foot *Sundiver* (formerly the *Nautilus*). The four boat fleet enables Seasports to cater to specialty groups in addition to running regular reef trips. In particular, Seasports has become known as *the* place to go for spearfishing. Owner David Fair is a four-time Florida state spearfishing champion and one-time national champion who has been known to spearfish while freediving in water as deep as 140 feet. If a group wants fish he knows the spots.

Seasports also can cater to photographers or any other group with special needs. However, Fair attributes the rapid growth of the shop from its modest beginnings five years ago not to any special interest groups, but to the "bread and butter" divers who keep coming back because of the service they get at Seasports. It's one of the few shops in the Keys where divers are not expected to lug all their own gear around. The staff transports all the tanks and gear bags to and from the dock and loads and unloads them on the boat. Between dives the customers relax while the staff changes the tanks over. There's no more of, "I wonder if I have shoulder bends or was it just the 65 pound gear bag?"

That kind of treatment can spoil you. Shop manager Kevin Kiekhafer recalls referring customers to another shop on days when he didn't have enough to make a trip and having them come back and tell him, "If you can't take us diving, don't send us anywhere else. We'll stay home! Captain Steve Stevens points out that, "The fact that you have only about five million divers in the U.S. dictates that business is very heavily dependent on repeat customers. If you don't have a good crew with a good attitude you don't get

(Continued on Page 144)





Opposite page, from top: The reefs around Sand Key are the most popular dive sites in the Key West area; Seasports has changed the name of this 48 foot dive boat to *Sundiver*; Seasports Key West staff—(left to right) Kevin Kiekhafer, Mimi Dye, Bob Greer; Seasports dive shop; Bob Greer measures a spiny lobster at Western Dry Rocks. Above: A beautiful Key West sunrise. Right: Diver Donna Winslow and balloonfish near Western Dry Rocks.

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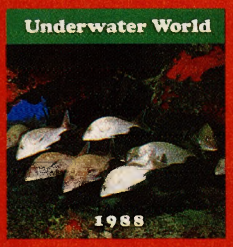


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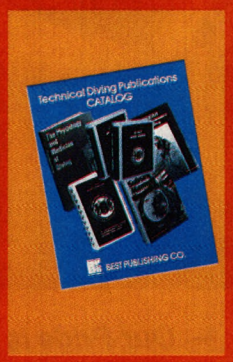


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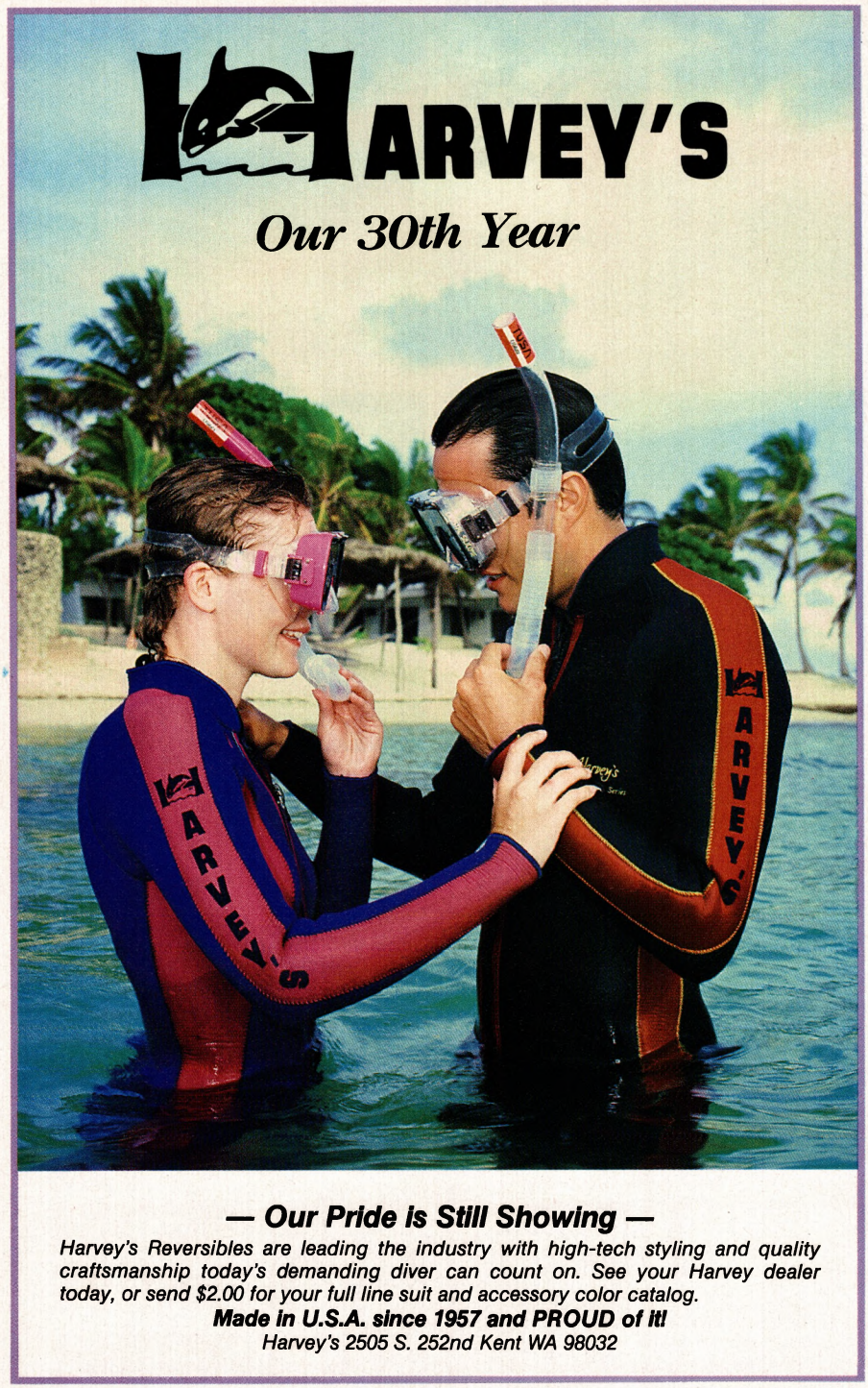
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SPECIAL DIVE GUIDE



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in the January

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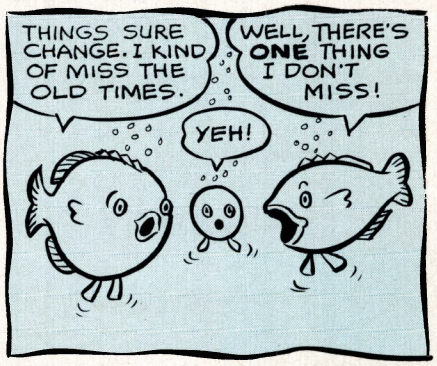
NEW TRIMARINE BOAT

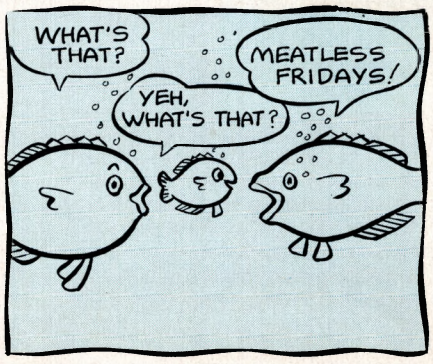
Trimarine, owner and operator of the *Lammer Law* and *Misty Law*, has a new aluminum trimaran under construction. It will be 105 feet long and 44 feet wide, with masts 103 feet high. This new ship, ten feet longer than the *Lammer Law*, will take only 20 guests in the same standard of luxury and service that guests on the *Lammer Law* have grown accustomed to. Powered by twin Caterpillar diesels and more than 5,000 square feet of sail, she should achieve speeds of up to 17 knots under sail and 14 knots under power. The new vessel will feature a separate theater aft for viewing slides and videos and will be equipped with a darkroom.

Lammer Law will be refitted to the same specification as the new boat, with the number of guests reduced from 18 to 16 in order to accommodate the theater and darkroom.

Like her sister ship, the new vessel will be based in the British Virgin Islands and will make occasional expeditions to the Leeward and Windward Islands. The new vessel is, as yet, unnamed, so Trimarine is holding a name competition. The only requirement is that the name end in "Law." The judges will make their decision in February 1988 and the winner will receive a free trip for two on the new boat. Send your entries, along with your name and address, to Trimarine Boat Co., Ltd., Homeport, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802.

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HENDERSON'S STARS & STRIPES

A Revolutionary Statement In Diving Attire

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Pity the females of most animal species, spending their lives in the olive greens, browns and grays meant to blend in with their habitats. Luckily, the human female does not need such camouflage. And, I for one, am not sorry. I love wearing colors—the brighter, the better. Knowing that, you can imagine how delighted I was when the Henderson Stars 'n Stripes wetsuit arrived. As you can see, it is not dingy, drab and dark. It is a bright, shiny red nylon with navy blue Lycra edge trim and stitching. This is not a suit for introverts!

The Stars 'n Stripes jacket has a diagonal YKK zipper running down the front. This opens on the left leg so there is no need for a beavertail. The zipper has sturdy Delrin teeth and a bronze pull. The legs of the jacket are French cut for style and comfort. The shoulder panels on the top—blue and white stripes sprinkled with yellow, red and purple stars—give the suit its name. There are raglan sleeves for comfort and a good fit. The inside of the both the jacket and pants is Plush-Lite, a brushed, napless nylon that looks and feels like very soft felt. This material doesn't stick to Velcro the way terry cloth-like linings do, eliminating pilling and pulls caused by this affinity. If the nap runs the wrong way, terry cloth-like linings can also cause the suit to hold water; since Plush-Lite is napless, this can't happen.







Above: Jane Hayashi models the Stars 'n Stripes wetsuit in one-eighth inch neoprene. Far left: Louise Avila in the farmer janes. Matching accessories are also available.

The Stars 'n Stripes jacket has a flap running the length of the zipper to prevent water exchange and cushion the zipper against the body. Sewn to the inside of the flap is a piece of material with a slit in it that functions as a key pocket. Simply push the bottom of a key into the hole; it will be held there securely. This is, of course, for those who beach dive and have nowhere else to carry a car key.

The Stars 'n Stripes farmer janes have matching knee

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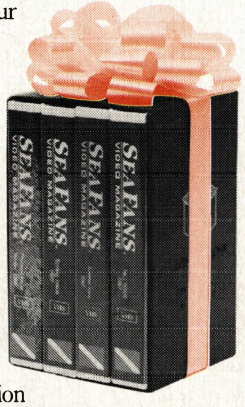
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TWO WOMEN MOVE UP AFTER A LOT OF BOTTOM TIME



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HENDERSON STARS 'N STRIPES

guards. Notice, I did not say knee pads. Exactly what knee guards are and how they adhere to the suit are closely guarded Henderson secrets. Betsy Edmund, Henderson's vice president, would only tell me the knee guards are heat applied.

As is the jacket, the farmer janes are accented with navy blue edge trim and stitching. They have Velcro closing shoulders for ease of entry and a crotch gusset for comfort. There are no seams down the back of the legs or the outside; the only seams run down the inside of the legs. If you spend hours at a time in your wetsuit, you will appreciate this. The fewer the seams the more comfortable the suit will be.

One of the nice things about two piece suits is their versatility. At the typical Caribbean resort the first dive of the day is deep and the second, shallow. Wear both jacket and pants on the deep dive, where the water is likely to be cool; wear either jacket or pants alone on the shallow dive, where the water will be warmer.

The Stars 'n Stripes suit isn't just for women, there is also a version for men. Although not as bold and bright as the women's, it isn't going to blend into the background. A classy, shimmering graphite, it also has navy blue trim. The farmer john is the same design as the farmer jane, but the jacket, with its short legs, is slightly different.

The Stars 'n Stripes wetsuits come in one-quarter, three-sixteeths or one-eighth inch neoprene in seven adult and three junior sizes. They retail for $350. Since the neoprene used is so stretchy, most people are going to find a suit, ready made, that fits.

Matching accessories in all three thicknesses and sizes are available for both suits. There are hard soled booties ($40), cold water hoods ($42), long cuffed gloves ($42) and neoprene weightbelts. These latter are great because they have Velcro closing pockets that hold either one and one-half pound bullet weights or square weights up to three pounds. They protect your suit—as well as the people and things around you—from wear and tear. Plus, they pad the weights so they can't bruise hips and waist. The weightbelts come in all Henderson colors in small, medium, large and extra large. The small holds up to 15 pounds of weight, the extra large, 25. The neoprene weightbelts sell for $40.

All of the Henderson products mentioned in this article are very well made, with attention to detail. All seams are glued and sewn, all edges are covered with stretchy Lycra trim. It is appropriate that suits and accessories with such a patriotic theme as Stars 'n Stripes are made in America. You can try them on at your nearest Henderson dealer.

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SDM'S

U/W Video Course

Shooting At Night

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH

Why shoot video at night? Because many exciting creatures that aren't visible during the day come out then. Night is the only time you can shoot the graceful swimming of a Spanish dancer in Hawaii or pan across open yellow cup corals in Bonaire. Night is also when the elusive octopus comes into the open.

Night video features dazzling colors. Your video light will appear weak during the day, when bluish sunlight determines exposure and color. But at night, there is no sunlight to compete with. Thus, the video light brings out all the bright colors of your subjects.

Close-up subjects, such as a small octopus, sleeping fish or eel, are often most exciting. However, please don't unduly disturb your delicate subjects. A fish that darts into the spines of a sea urchin will suffer painful and possibly fatal wounds. Common daylight subjects such as hermit crabs, banded coral shrimp and arrowcrabs are easier to work with at night because they are out in the open. But again, please be careful.

When diving on a lush reef—and especially on encrusted wreckage—a slow pan showing colorful sponges, corals and marine life can be beautiful. But don't be dazzled by splashes of bright color alone. You still need individual subjects, action and points of interest to hold the viewer's interest. With still subjects, give yourself a scene long enough to narrate.

Medium-distance shots of divers will be better if your models wear bright, reflective dive gear. White hands, a white face and a chrome-finished regulator will usually be too light if the automatic exposure control reads off a black wetsuit or dark BC. Generally, the distance at which you can shoot U/W depends on the reflectance of the subject as well as the power of your light and water clarity.

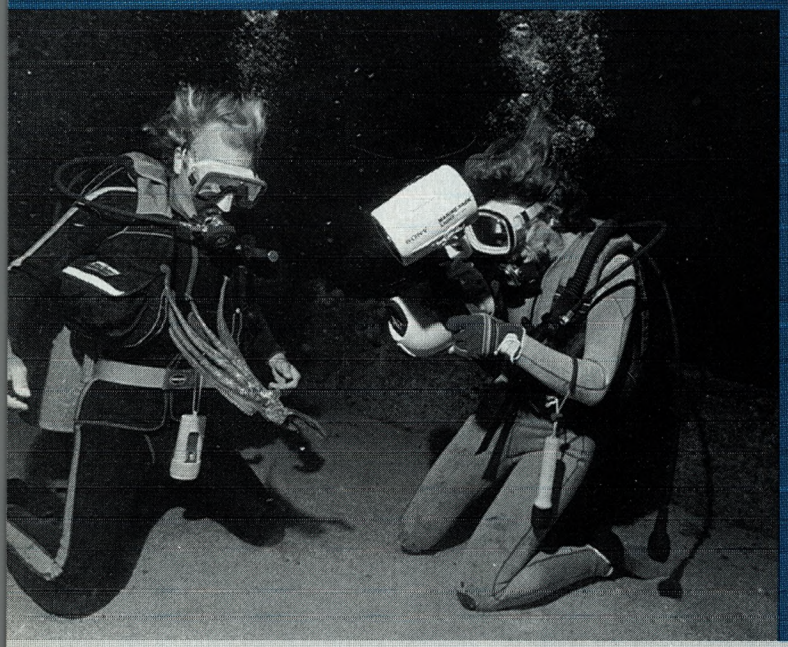
Don't use your video light as a dive light—it will only scare critters, attract plankton and burn out early. Use a small handheld dive light when you're not filming. If you use a short wrist lanyard, simply let go of the hand light when you turn on the video light.

When the video light is turned off, both spotter and shooter will lose their night vision. Both will need several minutes for their eyes to adjust. If you are moving a creature from one location to another, be sure it is under control before turning the light off. And, when your night vision returns, take the creature back to its home.

We often use the spotter and shooter technique. The spotter helps find and handle small subjects while the shooter operates the camera. When posing with a small subject, it's important that the spotter maneuver the subject so its best side faces the camera. If the spotter's face is to be in the picture, he or she must stay very close to the subject. The key idea is that multiple subjects must be kept close together if they are to fit inside the picture area. The spotter may feel strange looking at a sponge from only a few inches away, but the scene will look good on the video screen.

Don't depend on complex communications underwater. KISS: Keep it Super Simple. You can use two taps on your tank to get your partner's attention. If you want your partner to come to you, shine your dive light on yourself and wiggle the

In this series of nighttime underwater photos, Mike Mesgleski works with a shy octopus while Cathy Church videotapes it.





light. If you have found an interesting subject, shine the dive light on the subject and wiggle the light. Be careful, however, not to mimic long, vertical movements of the light that signal diver in distress.

If you wish to change your position relative to the spotter, reach out and grip his/her shoulder or arm to signal that you want him/her to stay put. You can also use this grip to help move yourself into position. If you want the spotter to move relative to you, you can use the grip to guide the spotter into position. If you want an "over the shoulder" shot, take hold of the spotter's tank yoke and adjust your relative positions.

If you must edit in camera, shooting your U/W scenes is more difficult at night. During the day, you can use the LS, MS, CU and LS pattern augmented with cut-ins, cut-aways and overlaps. But at night, you often are limited to a series of close-ups. Thus, you may need changes in music plus narration to create sequences in your finished video.

If you plan to add narration, group your shots: Three consecutive, five second scenes of sleeping fish, for example, give you enough time for 15 seconds of narration. If you find one brittlestar, three short scenes—taken with different camera angles—will give you the time you need. To estimate how long you should stay with non-active subjects, time yourself as you read some sample narration. For example, time yourself as you read the following: At night, brittlestars move to the outsides of sponges where they can filter food from the water pumped by the sponge. During the day, they hide inside the sponges, where their delicate arms are protected from hungry fish.

U/W ETIQUETTE

U/W videographers can be bothersome to other night divers. For example, a bright video light suddenly thrust into the face of an unsuspecting diver can be painful. And, if the diver is using only a small dive light and his night vision to enjoy the serenity of the dive, he will be angry. On the other hand, some divers enjoy following a videographer as his light illuminates the seafloor. Therefore, ask your group ahead of time if they will object to your bright light—especially if you wish to photograph the divers. You may need to divide the dive site and tell them where you will start and end your dive.

NIGHT VIDEO TIPS

*With twin video lights, try using one at a time. A single light often provides better shadow detail. And, when one is exhausted, turn on the other.

*Make sure the light is aimed correctly. Beginners often forget to change the angle of the light when they change camera-to-subject distance. Don't just use the attached light to aim the camera.

*Make sure that you can operate all necessary camera controls by feel in the dark. Above all, be sure you can tell when the camera is on or off.

*For optimum automatic exposure control, keep subjects in the center of the picture area. If off center, the automatic control can respond to a dark midwater background and overexpose.

PRE-DIVE VIDEO CHECKLIST

Before using your video camera at night, make a pre-dive checklist. Modify this list to match your equipment:

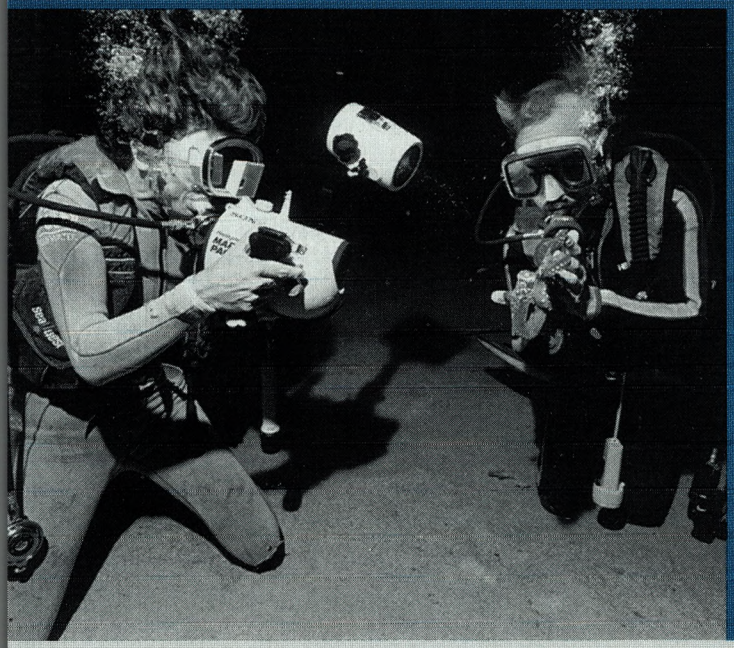
1. Charge and install batteries for camera, video light and hand light.
2. Turn autofocus off (for dome port).
3. Preset focus.
4. Remove sunlight filter (such as UR pro).
5. Set color balance for artificial light.
6. Set sensitivity switch for normal.
7. Clean and lubricate O-rings as per directions.
8. Assemble video system and dive light.
9. Note: In humid climates, you may wish to blow the housing out with warm (not hot) air from a hair dryer.
10. Double check all housing latches.
11. Test camera, video light and dive light for on/off.
12. Test housed equipment in a freshwater tank for leaks.

BUOYANCY CONTROL

To have optimum buoyancy control, you must be familiar with your wetsuit, BC, weights and the balance of your video camera and light. Thus, nighttime is no time to be learning how to use and keep your buoyancy with new equipment. Master your equipment during day dives first. Otherwise you may be too busy fighting for body and buoyancy control to use your camera effectively.

Be especially careful when shooting video in midwater! Because you may have no sense of depth of movement, you could accidentally ascend too quickly for safety.

When posing with such a small subject, it is important for the handler to present it at its most attractive angle.

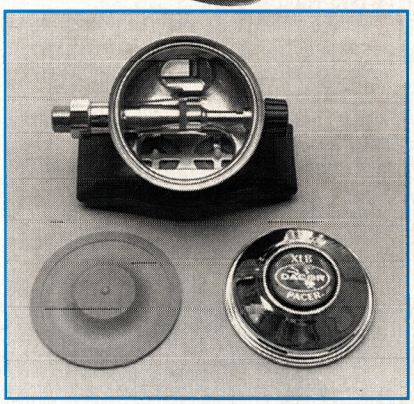




960 XLB

DACOR PACER 960 XLB





TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC HANAUER

When Dacor introduced their newest entry in the premium regulator wars, they did it with what got them there: a balanced diaphragm first stage. Although they also produce a piston first stage, Dacor's engineering philosphy is firmly committed to the balanced diaphragm principle. The design of the new 960 XLB Pacer isn't radical; it utilizes mainstream technology that has been refined to produce Dacor's most expensive and top performing regulator.

What's new? The first stage has a swivel with one port, utilizing a turbo assist to provide more air to the second stage. The second stage is balanced; its cracking effort can be adjusted by turning a knob, even while the diver is underwater.

What's old? This regulator is still easily recognizable as a Dacor, with the aforementioned balanced diaphragm first stage and a metal housing on the second. Continued from recent years are the wide diameter hoses and optional plastic second stage covers in eight different colors.

What's the result? It's a remarkably natural breathing regulator that supplies large volumes of air, even deep—and, one that displays very little temperament for such a high performer. Veteran engineer Vern Pedersen was our guide through the maze of Dacor's 13 different models as he explained the inner workings of the company's newest regulator.

The 960 first stage was designed from the proverbial clean sheet of paper. Its most unique feature is a turbo assisted swivel that accepts only a single hose. Most regulators with this feature allow attachment of several hoses. The problem, according to Vern, is that multiple hoses lock the swivel and prevent it from turning freely. Dacor's swivel, without additional hoses to encumber it, moves with you whenever you move your head. It rotates freely, whether the system is pressurized or not.

Because of its turbo assist feature, the swivel fitting should be the attachment for the primary second stage. Here's how it works. Air going to the primary port passes over the end of a tube that is open to the airstream. The other end of the tube goes down into the diaphragm chamber. As air passes over the open end, it creates a negative pressure area that draws additional air from the chamber. This is called the Bernoulli Effect, similar to a venturi action. As air leaves the diaphragm chamber, pressure within it drops. This gives the diaphragm a false reading of 10-15 psi less than the actual intermediate pressure of 140 psi. Consequently, it depresses farther, opening the high pressure seat even more. The end result is a greater flow of air into the primary port and onto the second stage.

The 960's new diaphragm is thinner than conventional ones and made of a more flexible material that holds its consistency regardless of tempera-

960 XLB PACER

First stage:
- Type: Balanced diaphragm
- Maximum pressure: 3,300 psi
- Materials: Triple chrome plated brass body, urethane diaphragm
- High pressure ports: Two, 7/16"
- Low pressure ports: Four, ½"
- Intermediate pressure: 140 psi
- Environmental protection: optional

Hose Length: 26"

Second stage:
- Type: Balanced downstream lever action
- Materials: Case and cover: chromed brass; Diaphragm, mouthpiece and two exhaust valves: silicone; Seat: Neoprene
- Features: Knob for tuning cracking effort; Venturamatic flow vane
- Options: Plastic cover in eight colors

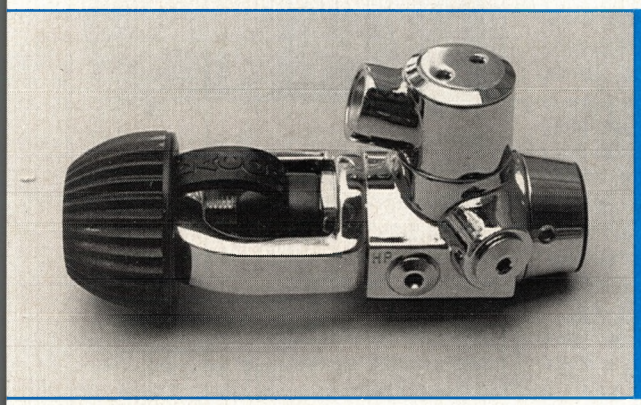
Warranty: Limited lifetime

Price: $315

overpressure situation, so there is slightly more area on the seat side. In case of a first stage malfunction, the second stage would act like a conventional downstream valve and release the excess pressure as freeflow.

A major advantage of the balanced second stage is that a much lighter spring can be utilized to keep the valve closed. This provides two major benefits: Cracking effort (the suction required to begin airflow) is greatly reduced and the seat is less likely to take a set during storage. This occurs in unbalanced second stages when heavy spring pressure causes the valve body to wear a groove into the rubber or Teflon seat. Over the period of a year or so this will result in air leakage and require replacement of the seat. Although Dacor supplies a purge button depressor to relieve pressure on the seat, it is not essential to use it for storage as long as the knob is set for the lowest resistance.

Turning the knob turns the balance



Far left: The 960 XLB second stage has a knob that adjusts cracking effort. Left: The first stage has a swivel with one low pressure port that utilizes a turbo assist. There are three low pressure ports and two high pressure ports on the body.

ture. This prevents it from stiffening in extremely cold water, a condition that could lead to an increase in intermediate pressure.

There are three additional low pressure ports and two high pressure ports on the first stage body, providing maximum flexibility in attachment of hoses. In keeping with current Dacor practice, the low pressure ports are one-half inch diameter to accommodate wider hoses, further enhancing airflow to the second stage.

Also new for 1987 is the XLB second stage, with a balanced seat and an external knob that adjusts cracking effort. Balancing the second stage is accomplished the same way as in a naturally balanced first stage: with a flow-through valve that distributes 140 psi on both sides of the seat. If it were perfectly balanced it would lock in an chamber itself, moving it in or out. Counterclockwise rotation reduces cracking effort; clockwise rotation increases it. It takes four revolutions to go all the way from the plus (highest effort) to the minus (lowest effort) mark. This fine tuning allows the diver to desensitize the regulator while swimming on the surface or to dial in maximum sensitivity when going deep or working hard. Yet, Pedersen explains the adjustment is limited. "You can't make it breathe too hard and you can't set it for an out-of-control freeflow . . . you can't hurt yourself"

Continued from earlier models are some of the features that have come to be expected from Dacor. These include a diaphragm, mouthpiece and twin exhaust valves made of silicone. The Venturamatic flow vane and anti-freeflow device are a series of metal baffles inside the housing, designed to enhance airflow. All metal parts are either stainless steel or triple plated chromed brass. Optional second stage covers of plastic are available in red, white, powder blue, royal blue, pink, yellow, orange and black for fashion conscious divers. Finally, an environmental kit is available as an option for divers planning to enter freezing or polluted waters.

We tested the 960 XLB while wreck diving off the coast of San Pedro, California aboard the vessel *Deep Freak*. This regulator's outstanding characteristic is its smooth, natural feel. Most regulators, even some high performance models, still give the impression of breathing through a machine. The 960 XLB feels natural, as if you were walking down the street with all the air you needed around you. Deeper than 100 feet, subjected to hard swimming and heavy breathing, the high volume and natural feel continued undiminished. Exhalation effort was very low as well, adding to the overall impression of smoothness.

Breathing characteristics changed very little in different body positions. Only when I was on my back did effort increase significantly. However, there was no water leakage even in that position. When I was descending head first there was a slight bubbling of air at the lowest resistance setting of the adjustment knob. It was easily tuned out by turning the knob clockwise.

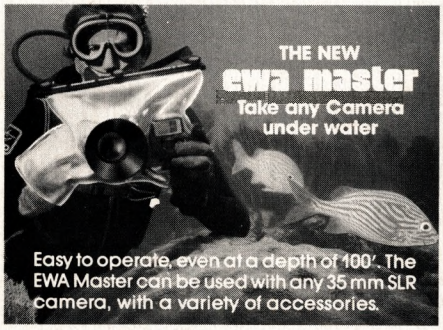
Purging water from the second stage was accomplished with just a short puff of air. The purge button delivers a medium blast that does the same job.

Removing the regulator from the mouth with the mouthpiece upward resulted in a slight freeflow that stopped only when I turned it down. In other Dacor models tested, the anti-freeflow vane directs water behind the diaphragm, stopping the flow after about three seconds. Perhaps because of its high performance characteristics, this system did not work on the 960 XLB. However, that is only a slight inconvenience, balanced against the overall competence of this regulator.

The 960 XLB Pacer will satisfy the perfectionist who demands high performance but won't accept fussiness. Its smoothness will appeal to the novice while its high volume air delivery at depth will please the expert. The retail price is $315 at your Dacor dealer. For more information contact the manufacturer, Dacor Corporation, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, Illinois 60093.

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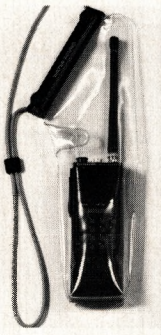
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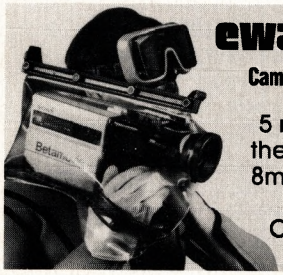


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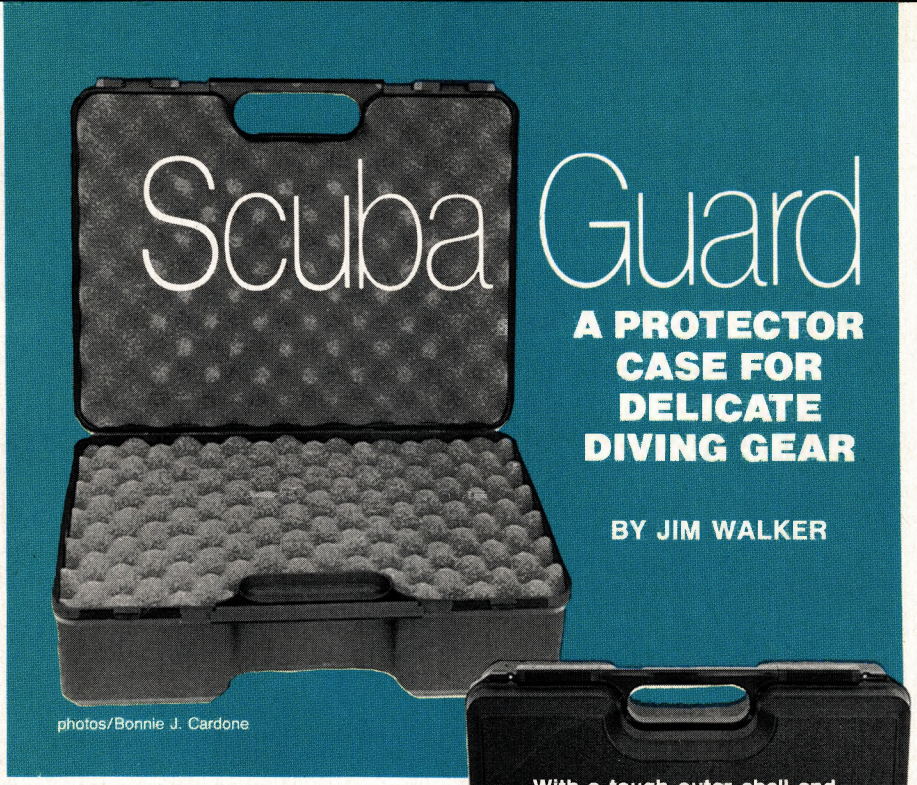
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Scuba Guard

A PROTECTOR CASE FOR DELICATE DIVING GEAR

BY JIM WALKER



photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

With a tough outer shell and foam padded interior, the Scuba Guard case will protect valuable dive gear such as a regulator with instrument console or photo equipment.

Picture, in your mind, that luggage commercial where the gorilla slams around a suitcase. Now picture that same gorilla using scuba tanks and five pound lead weights to wreak his havoc. Throw in some saltwater, scorching sunlight and a sandpaper-like boat deck and you have an idea what forces are at work on your dive gear topside. While some items, such as fins and wetsuits, can take a pounding without much damage, others would benefit from a protective case. Ideally, such a case would have a sturdy outer shell and a padded inner lining.

The Scuba Guard is a 13 x 17 x 6 inch padded case suitable for carrying a regulator/instrument console, photo gear, a dive light or a combination of items. The outer shell is rugged PVC. This material is sturdy enough to hold its form against heavy pressure (such as your buddy sitting down on it), yet is slightly flexible to absorb impacts.

The Scuba Guard has a large carrying handle, which is flush with the top edge of the case. This streamlined design protects the handle and facilitates packing the case among other gear. Four built-in pegs on the hinge side give the case support when upright.

The two halves of the case are connected with corrosion resistant stainless steel hinge pins. The contacting edges of the halves feature a tongue and groove design. This adds structural support and will keep foreign objects from entering the case. (This also helps prevent splashed water from entering.) The case is secured with two corrosion proof PVC sliding latches.

Inside the case are three layers of foam padding—one in the top half and two in the bottom. This padding can be custom fit to the items you wish to carry in the case in two ways:

Items less than two inches thick can be placed in the case and the lid closed. After a time (several weeks), the foam will compress to the shape of these items.

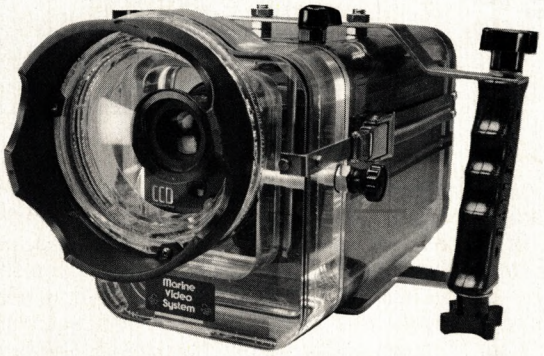
The outlines of larger objects can be traced on the center layer of foam with a felt tipped pen. Then, a sharp blade can be used to cut out the appropriate sections. The items then nestle in spaces in the foam cut to fit them. Placing the foam in a freezer overnight will stiffen it and facilitate cutting.

For some items of gear, such as a regulator, octopus and console, you might want to remove the center layer of foam completely. Everything will still be protected, but the hoses will not be forced into sharp bends.

Care of the Scuba Guard includes keeping the hinge area free of sand and other debris. A mild soap solution can be used to clean the case and the foam padding. Never use petroleum based products, silicones or chemical cleaners.

The Scuba Guard has a suggested retail price of $44.95. It comes with a limited one year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. For the address of a Scuba Guard dealer near you contact Scuba Guard, P.O. Box 2176, Bridgeview, IL 60455—or the distributor, Berry Scuba, 6674 Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60631; (312) 763-1626.

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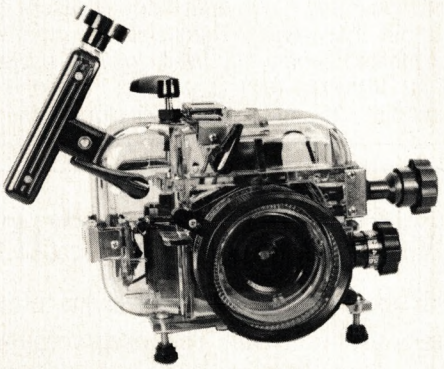
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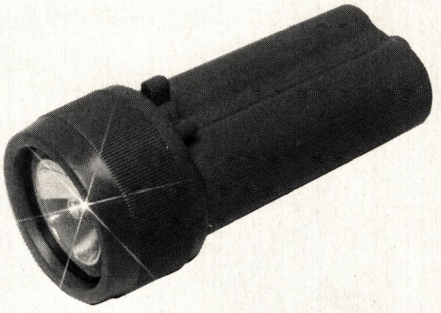
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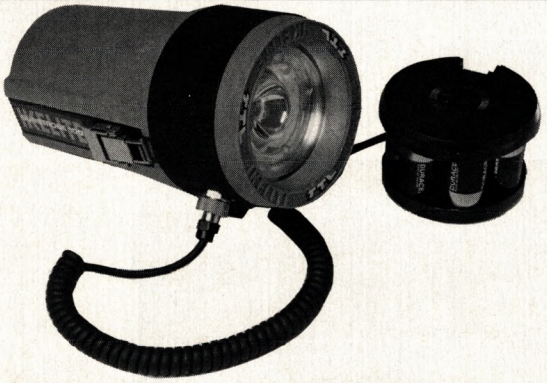
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Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



From information about the dog hole schooners to diving in contaminated waters to sources for copies of the exciting Sea Hunt TV series, this month's Technifacts shares reader comments and, as it has for the past 25 years, answers some questions.

Part of the joy of writing this column is sharing the information received from SKIN DIVER readers from all parts of the world. Their questions, comments and suggestions are the indispensable elements that make a continuing Technifacts not only possible but a gratifying experience. All letters can't be answered personally but they're greatly appreciated.

DOG HOLE SCHOONERS

The two part article, Search for Dog Hole Schooners (SDM September and October 1987), generated considerable interest. Bob Click, of Washington, is both a diver and student of marine history. He wrote saying, "... I can help you with some information regarding the illustration on the lower right of page 106 (September). The schooner in the picture is the four master *Irene*, moored "under the wire" at Noyo, California. The people being loaded "by the wire" are the vessel's master, Captain S.C. Mitchell (right), his wife and two children and their nurse (left). The first mate is standing on the left of the highline passenger loading rig."

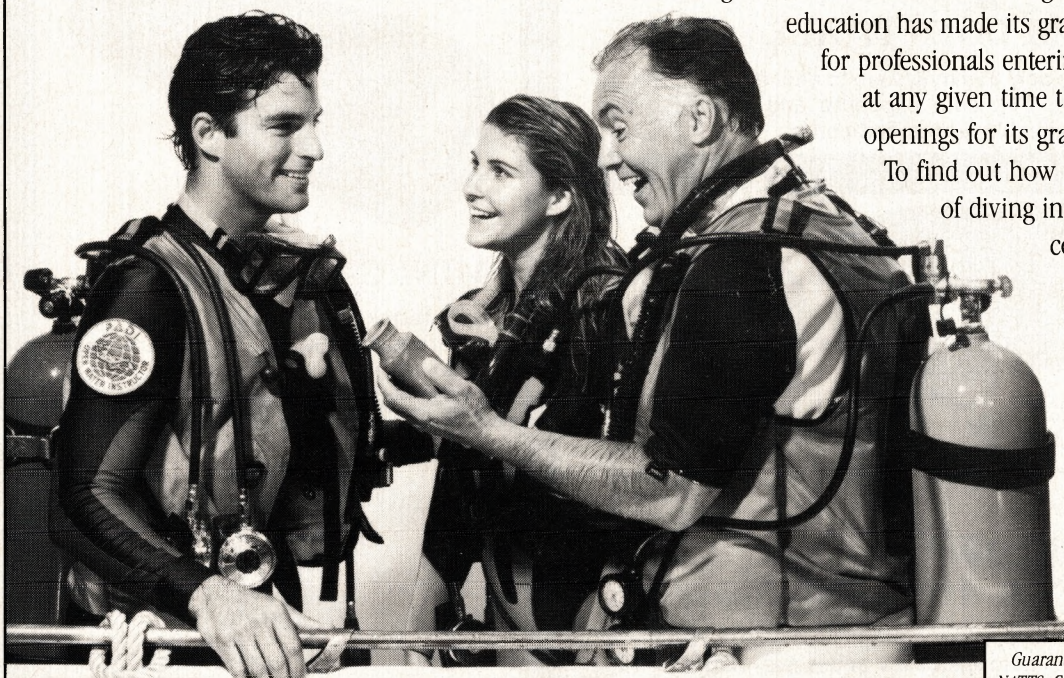
Other readers pointed out that *Irene* was one of the later four masted shooners. She was launched at Fairhaven (a shipbuilding town in Humboldt Bay, upstream from Eureka, California) about 1900. She was primarily a lumber schooner and displaced more than 700 tons; a dog holer so large she could enter only a few of the dog hole ports. The *Irene* was burned intentionally as a movie set off Long Beach, California in November 1929. Does anyone know the name of the movie she "starred" in or the ultimate fate of the hulk after burning?

Thomas Klyce, Clearwater, Florida, wrote, "The articles on the dog hole schooners were very exciting. They really made me feel in touch with history, archaeology, treasure hunting and diving. Thanks for the great articles."

While on the subject of the dog hole schooners, I would like to specially thank Jean Piccolotti of Sacramento; Jane Ca-

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sey of the Kelley House Museum, Mendocino; Swanlund's Camera Shop, Eureka; the Coast Fin and Scuba dive shop at Fort Bragg; Ken Tallman of the Sub-Surface Progression dive shop, also in Fort Bragg; and, particularly, all of the "oldsters" of the towns and villages along the coast who took the time to talk with me about the history of the area. They were very helpful in providing information and photos of the ports and the schooners that played such an important part in the early history and development of northern California.

DIVING IN POLLUTED WATERS

Most readers who responded to the two Technifacts that discussed diving in polluted waters (SKIN DIVER August and September 1987) were in agreement; there are thousands of miles of clean, clear, unpolluted divable waters. They also agreed that "hot spots" within these pristine waters are potentially hazardous to divers and to the marine environment. The consensus was that many sport divers are not aware of these hot spots or how to detect them before a dive. Patricia M. Quinn, Brooklyn, New York stated, "A list of polluted waters for divers would be a good idea. New York City certainly has a lot of it (polluted waters)." She quickly added, "But we also have a lot of beautiful, clean dive spots."

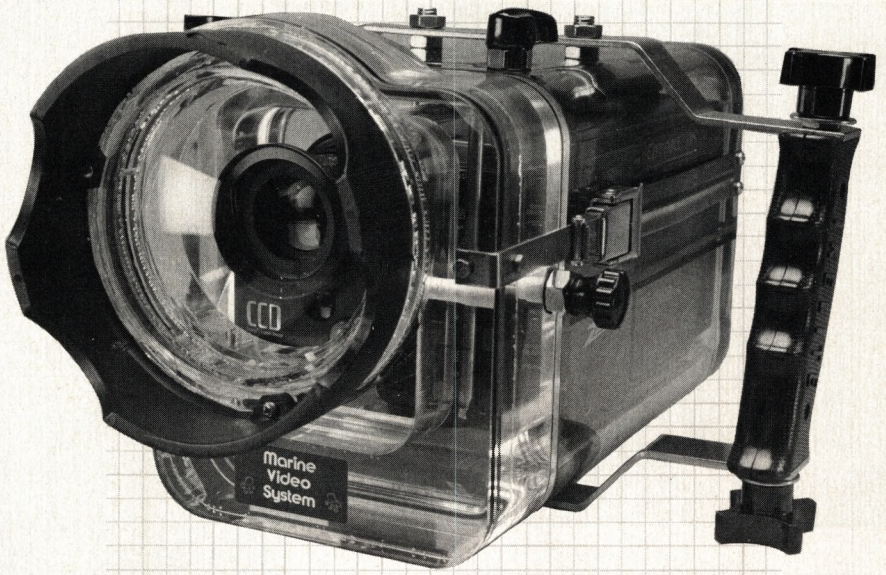
Without going into detail, it seems pertinent to mention briefly some of the kinds and sources of contamination affecting the world's waters that have been cited. As related in a previous Technifacts, efforts to reduce undesirable or unwholesome elements in all waters began in the late 1800s and continued at an increased pace in the first half of the 20th century. The structures built then, such as sewage treatment plants, outfall pipelines, settling basins, etc., are getting very old. Some are not adequate for the population they must now serve. Others are simply "falling apart," as one reader stated.

Again quoting Patricia Quinn of Brooklyn, "Having lived near water all my life I became a certified diver. I live in Bay Ridge, one-half block from the most beautiful harbor around. The only problem—one-half block from where I live—is a raw sewage treatment plant that is 35 years old. It had been neglected for nearly ten years and finally fell apart." Some work has been completed on the sewage system and conditions in the bay have improved. But, according to Patricia, not as much as officials claim. "The EPA keeps telling me the water is fine. But, how can it be fine when you can see the changes in the color of the water near the

(Continued on Page 51)

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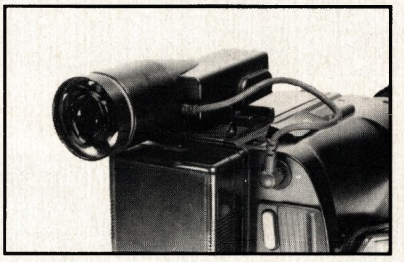
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Grand Prize Winner
Cayman Wide Angle Winner/Noel Rutt



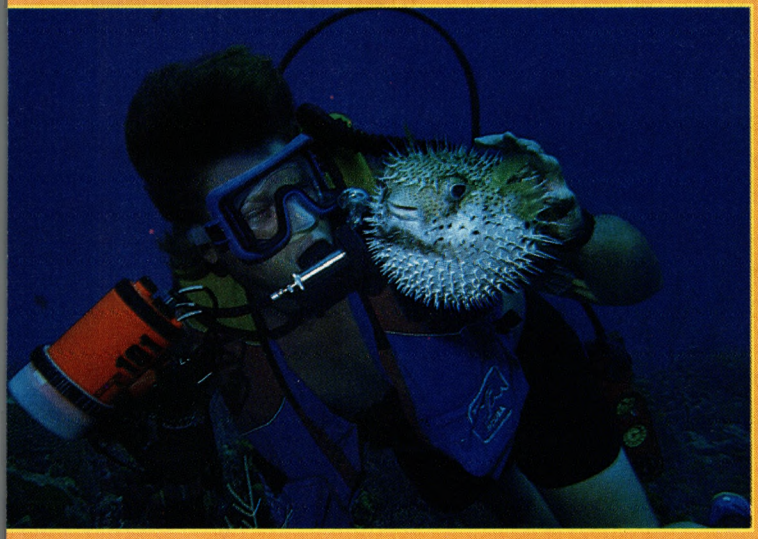
Bonaire Wide Angle Winner/Albert Bianculli



Cayman Macro Winner/Cozy Platt



Cayman Standard Lens Winner/Bill Cooper



NIKONOS

MEET THE WINNERS

Here they are: The winners of the $60,000 Nikonos Shootout 1987! More than 600 divers took Nikon's challenge to "sign up, show-up and shoot-'em-up," participating in the most exciting U/W photo contest in the world.

Each of the winners, like all the participants, spent a week on either Grand Cayman, Bonaire or Cozumel. This vacation, although it cost exactly the same as any other, had one exciting difference: It gave the vacationer a chance to win some $60,000 in prizes while participating in a free contest.

The 1987 Nikonos Shootout was held on Grand Cayman in May, on Bonaire in June and on Cozumel in July. There were about 200 participants on each island, each competing in three categories: wide angle, standard lens and macro. One roll of film and an entire day to shoot it were allowed for each category. The photos shown here are

Cozumel Wide Angle Winner/Thomas Ford



Bonaire Standard Lens Winner/James Mathias



Cozumel Standard Lens Winner/Ken Nemeth



SHOOTOUT

FOR 1987

BY BILL GLEASON

from the nine Top Guns, the winners of each category on each of the islands. When all conditions were equal (same location, same film, same day and same equipment) they were the underwater photographers who shot the best!

At the end of each week's Shootout, the first place winners were announced, along with second, third and honorable mention. The judges were myself and Paul Tzimoulis of SKIN DIVER Magazine, Frank Fennell of Nikon and well-known U/W photographers Stephen Frink and Rick Frehsee. The winners shared about $46,000 in prizes and were guaranteed their names and photos would be published in SKIN DIVER.

But, the winner of the grand prize—a $14,000 See & Sea trip to Australia—was still undecided. It wasn't until late September that the judges conferred and decided that Noel Rutt, the Grand Cayman

(Continued on Page 53)

Bonaire Macro Winner/Richard Sperry



Cozumel Macro Winner/Mark Vaughn



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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 46)

outfall and everything else that gets flushed or sent down a sewer."

Another kind of problem is from things dumped or pumped overboard at sea that then wash ashore with prevailing winds and currents. Thomas D. Helsel, civil engineer, Royersford, Pennsylvania, wrote, in part, "The reason for this letter is to inform you about the massive amount of debris that has been washing up on shore along the New Jersey coast. In recent weeks (his letter was dated 8/24/87) everything from used medical supplies (including hypodermic syringes), tampons, telephone poles, garbage and even money has washed ashore. Earlier in the summer the beaches were afflicted with sludge. The beaches were closed many days this summer." He concluded with the urgent suggestion that all divers be aware of the possibility for pollution and report to authorities, without delay, any information about acts of polluting or polluted areas.

From Calgary, Alberta, Canada H.D. Green wrote, "Harmful pollution of water is one thing some sport divers seem not to consider. Obvious dirty water and foul odors will deter diving but there are other contaminants not so easily spotted."

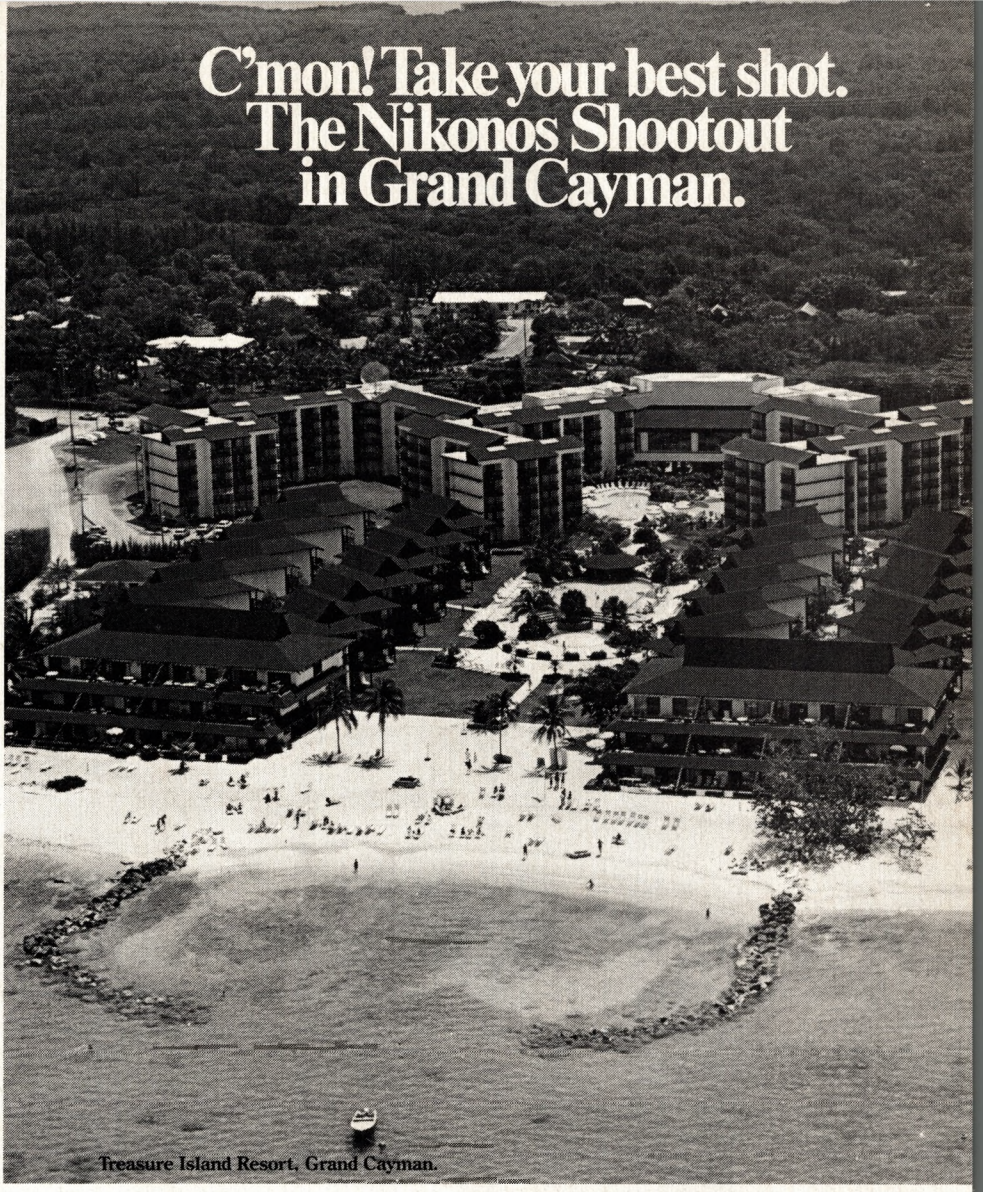
Spencer D. Campbell, formerly with The Ocean Corporation and now with the Highline Community College in Washington, stated, "There are two circumstances that require divers to expose themselves to radiation hazards. They may be responding to an emergency situation where the diving area is contaminated, or they may be required to perform inspection, repair or maintenance in the fuel pools of nuclear power reactors."

In recent months an additional source of contamination by radioactive elements has been reported. In an August 1987 newspaper article it was noted that some kinds of radioactive contamination travel underground much faster than formerly believed. Under the Hanford (Washington) Nuclear Reservation the radioactive element iodine-129 has been found in aquifers and has been traced to surrounding ground water, farm wells and wildlife, milk and even some local wine. Also, the iodine-129, which has a halflife of 17 million years, continues to seep, unabated, into the Columbia River, which passes near the Hanford site.

The Clallam County (Washington) Environmental Health Agency has reported that fresh water flowing into Sequim (pronounced Squim) Bay is generally clean but that Bell Creek subjects the beautiful bay to contamination from surrounding livestock farms. One neighbor to the bay

(Continued on Page 56)

C'mon! Take your best shot. The Nikonos Shootout in Grand Cayman.



Treasure Island Resort, Grand Cayman.

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NIKONOS SHOOTOUT

(Continued from Page 49)

wide angle winner, was Top Gun of the Top Guns! SKIN DIVER would like to congratulate all of the winners of the most unusual and exciting underwater photo contest in the world!

What makes the Nikonos Shootout so exciting? Well, it starts with underwater photographers of all experience levels—there are those whose cameras are right out of the boxes as well as those with old, scarred Nikonoses and they are all on the same island for the same week. Then there's the contest. On each of three days (one each for wide angle, standard lens and macro) you get a roll of free film (courtesy of Kodak) and all day to shoot 36 exposures.

On alternate days you select one slide to enter in each category. On the last evening of the contest, you attend an awards ceremony to find out who won. That's an exciting, action packed week!

But there's a lot more going on than just the world's best underwater photo contest. Tips and lectures from the judges are scheduled almost every evening. Most contestants told me the lectures alone were worth coming down for the week! The judges are also available to critique your work and offer hints on how to improve your photos.

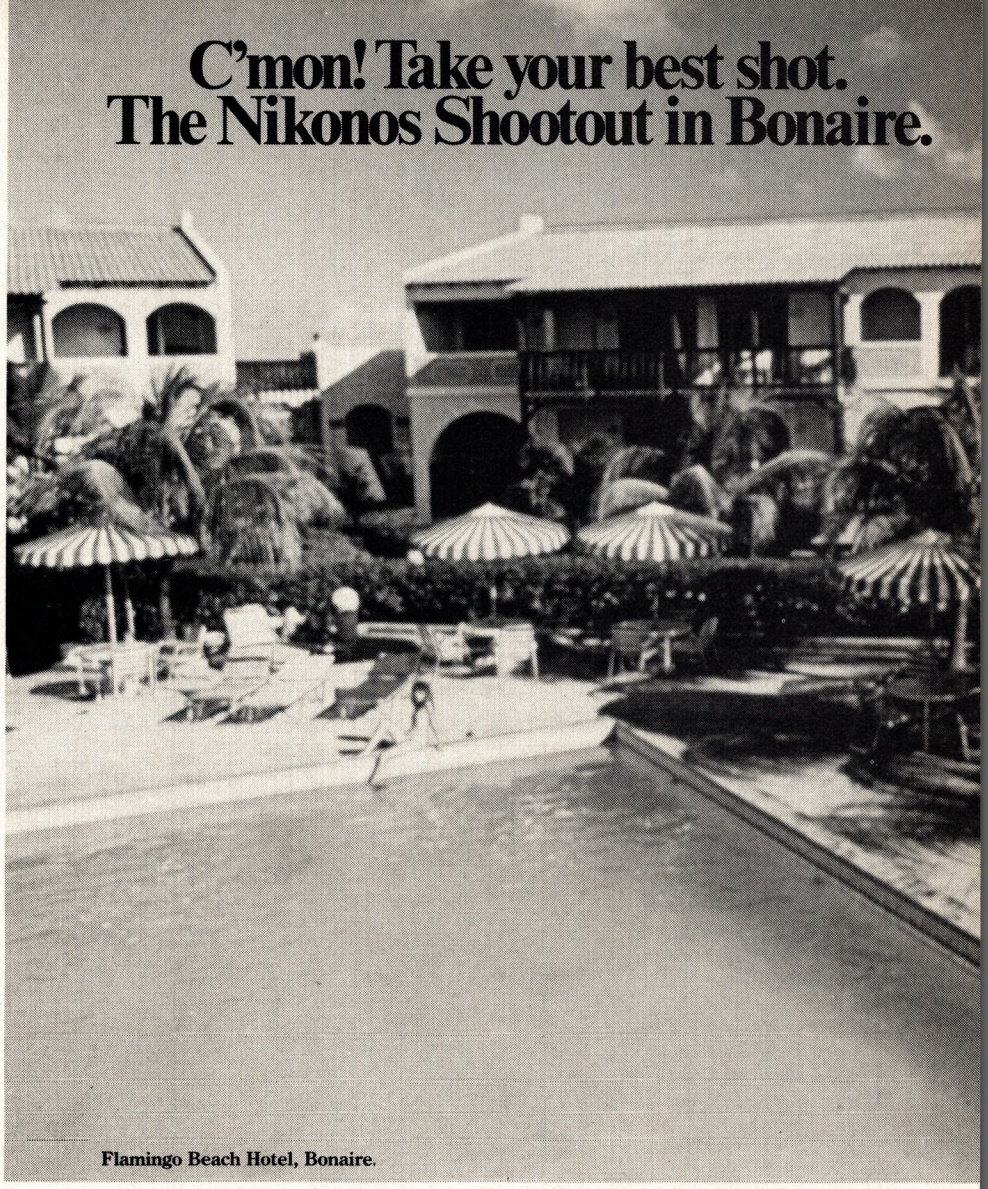
And, let's not forget about parties. There's usually a welcome bash where you get to meet your fellow contestants. The Friday awards ceremony is a fun evening as well.

All in all, we're talking not contest, but event. It costs no more than a normal week's vacation. The film is free and the only additional cost is processing (about $10 for each of the three contest rolls). For that, a bunch of people shared $60,000 worth of prizes and everyone had a good time. Here's a table that outlines dates for next year's Shootout:

Cayman	May 7-14 Treasure Island Hotel (800) 223-4707 (800) 367-4707 (FL)
Bonaire	June 11-18 Flamingo Beach Hotel (800) 367-3484 (607) 277-3484 (NY)
Cozumel	July 9-16 Casa Del Mar/La Ceiba (800) 446-2166 (713) 446-2166 (TX)

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Flamingo Beach Hotel, Bonaire.

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The best shots in each category will receive travel prizes and Nikonos photographic equipment and the "top gun" in each category will qualify for the Grand Prize judging which could win a dream dive vacation for two to Micronesia plus $3,000 in Nikonos equipment.

Professional photographer Rick Frehsee will lecture on underwater photography—designed to sharpen your skills for the Shootout. Entry into the Shootout, photo lectures and awards party is *free*!

The place for the party is the beautiful Flamingo Beach Hotel in Bonaire, one of the world's top diving destinations, June 11–18.

Just book your own air, hotel and diving accommodations and show up with your camera ready to take your best shot at a guaranteed great diving vacation and if you're real good—some great prizes.

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Wide Angle

1st Noel Rutt
2nd John McSwain
3rd Russ Stark
HM* Mike Mesgleski
HM B.K. Moore
HM Cozy Platt
HM Mark Van Ophem

Standard Lens

1st Bill Cooper
2nd Jo Wilson
3rd John Langer
HM Phil Wells
HM June Stahl
HM Tom Gibb
HM Cozy Platt

Macro

1st Cozy Platt
2nd Phil Faulconer
3rd Noel Rutt
HM June Stahl
HM David Niezgoda
HM Mark Van Ophem
HM Pat Scott

Divemaster

1st Clay Wiseman
2nd Danna DuBois
3rd Courtney Platt
HM Meg Kerr
HM Mark Huck
HM Tim Holden
HM Courtney Platt
HM Luis Usie
HM Danna DuBois

BONAIRE

Wide Angle

1st Albert Bianculli
2nd Rick Woods
3rd Carol Feldman
HM Steve Cohen
HM Cindy Sloan
HM Dick Harrison
HM Mary Simpson
HM Don Winner

oneer event in 1986 and 1987 and has scheduled it again, for 1988. Continental Airlines, ALM, Cayman Airways and Qantas also deserve thanks. But, most of all, credit goes to those who participated, competing fairly while learning and enjoying themselves.

See you next year!

Standard Lens

1st James Mathias
2nd Kelly Spranger
3rd Scott Pearson
HM Paul Montner
HM Jonathan Halkyard
HM Eduardo Rodriguez

Macro

1st Richard Sperry
2nd Eduardo Rodriguez
3rd Dale Stoakes
HM Jane Shupak
HM Jim Roseborough
HM Pedro Borrell
HM Ted Limbaugh

Divemaster

1st Roger Edmonds
2nd Shirley Baily
3rd Al Catalfumo
HM Bruce Bowker
HM Rudy Davilar
HM Sharon Winfree
HM Bruce Bowker

COZUMEL

Wide Angle

1st Thomas Ford
2nd Kendal Zamzow
3rd John Knox
HM Terre Wilson

Standard Lens

1st Ken Nemeth
2nd Lloyd Tucker
3rd Ray Vanhook
HM Jeff Bozanic
HM Dan Bludget
HM Charles Birnholtz
HM John Didier
HM Gordon Yerry

Macro

1st Mark Vaughan
2nd Gordon Yerry
3rd Eugene Levin
HM Ray Vanhook
HM Eric Pettit
HM Lloyd Tucker
HM Fred Koch

*HM=Honorable Mention

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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 51)

stated, "At low tide, it smells like a septic tank." Offshore a large cattle feeding lot in one state, colon bacillus was found indicating fecal contamination of the surrounding water.

Fish raising pens also cause water and, particularly, bottom contamination. In Norway it has been found that large fish rearing areas must be relocated to new sites every two years. The daily fecal and waste deposits from the many thousands of fish was equal to tons of untreated sewage from a town of 4,000 people.

In Alaska, oil spill clean-up costs and the damage done to the shoreline and fisheries totaled $80 million. Other reports revealed waterborne bacteria infected shellfish. And, parasites in the water attacked salmon returning to the rivers in which they were spawned.

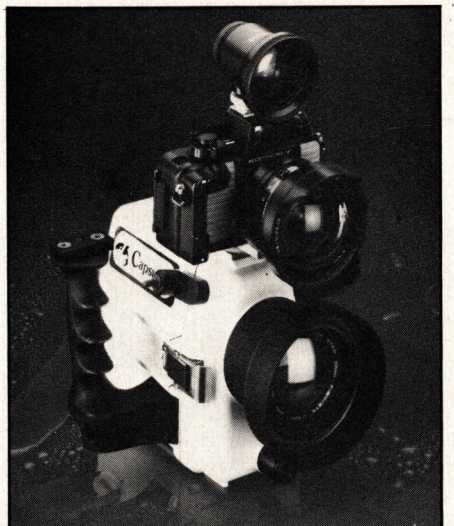
Finally, in Mulberry Creek, near Nashville, Tennessee fish were behaving strangely. Upstream, a broken pipe had allowed 13,800 gallons (reportedly $700,000 worth) of Jack Daniel's whiskey to run into the creek. As far as a mile downstream, it was a case of Jack Daniel's with a water chaser. Before you book passage to Nashville for a dive in Mulberry Creek, keep in mind that this fish orgy took place in July 1987 and was cleaned up in a couple of weeks!

OLD SEA HUNT EPISODES

Several months ago John Penzer wrote, asking about wanting to correspond with collectors of the old Sea Hunt series. Unfortunately, I have misplaced John's address. James Bristow, 117 Blueberry Trail, Lillburn, GA 30247; (404) 925-8322 wrote a letter to be forwarded to John. If anyone knows the whereabouts of John Penzer, have him write or call Bristow, who has several videos of the series.

Also, Danny Midgett, 211 Kings Road, Mt. Juliet, TX 37122; (615) 754-9667, wrote, "I currently have more than 100 episodes of Sea Hunt in my library and would like to compare notes with Mr. Penzer. Other interested SDM readers may also contact me."

Next month Technifacts will share with you some interesting comments and suggestions from around the world; the Victoria Archaeological Survey, Australia; Klein Associates super sidescan sonar; a great drysuit; an interesting report of an analysis of 20,000 commercial dives in the North Sea; the source for the long lost (?) International Journal of Nautical Archaeology; and what the MOPers are doing in Hawaii. Why not share your comments, suggestions and questions? Be with us next month.



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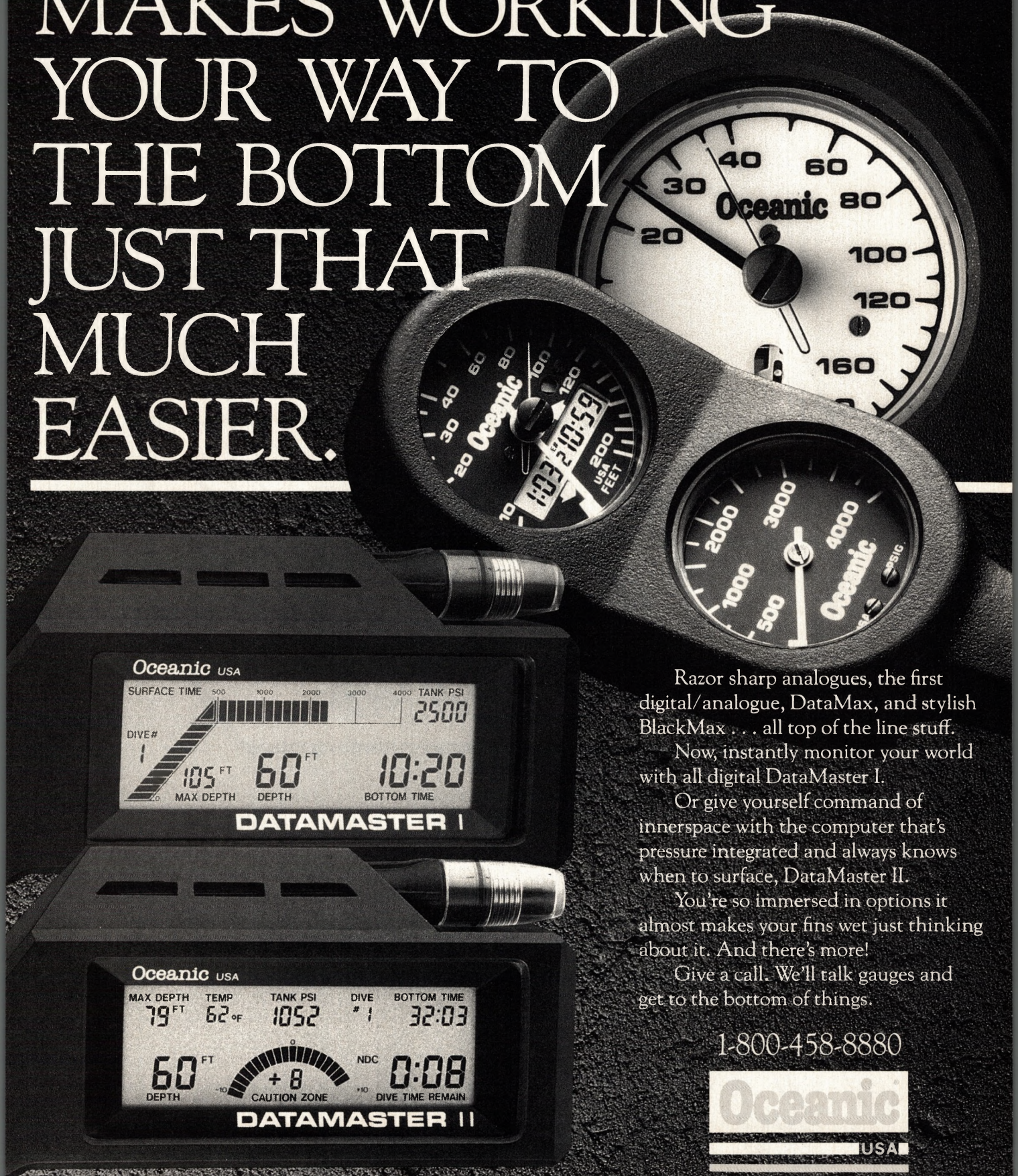
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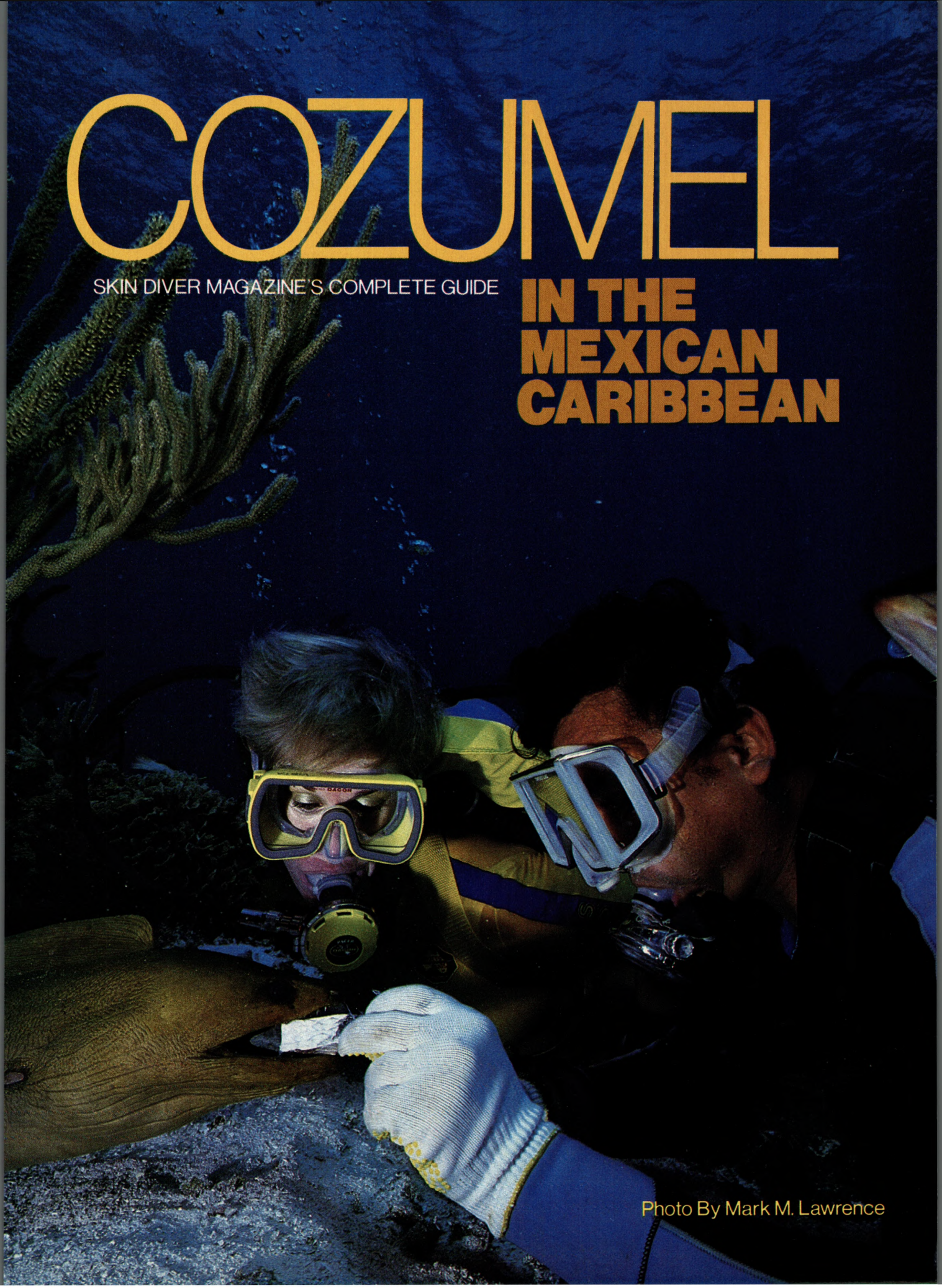


Photo By Mark M. Lawrence

COZUMEL

AN EXCLUSIVE ISLAND FOR DIVERS





Cozumel, off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, is an island that caters to divers. In fact, 50 percent of the visitors who come here are scuba divers. Above: A cruise ship docked at the Cruise Ship Pier just off La Ceiba Hotel. Left: Diving is just a few steps off La Ceiba's beach. Below: Unwinding on the dance floor at Scaramouche. Top Right: Divers relax in the pool at Sol Caribe. Bottom Right: Palancar Gardens is a popular dive. Yellow sponges grow from the underside of ledges as well as on the reef top.



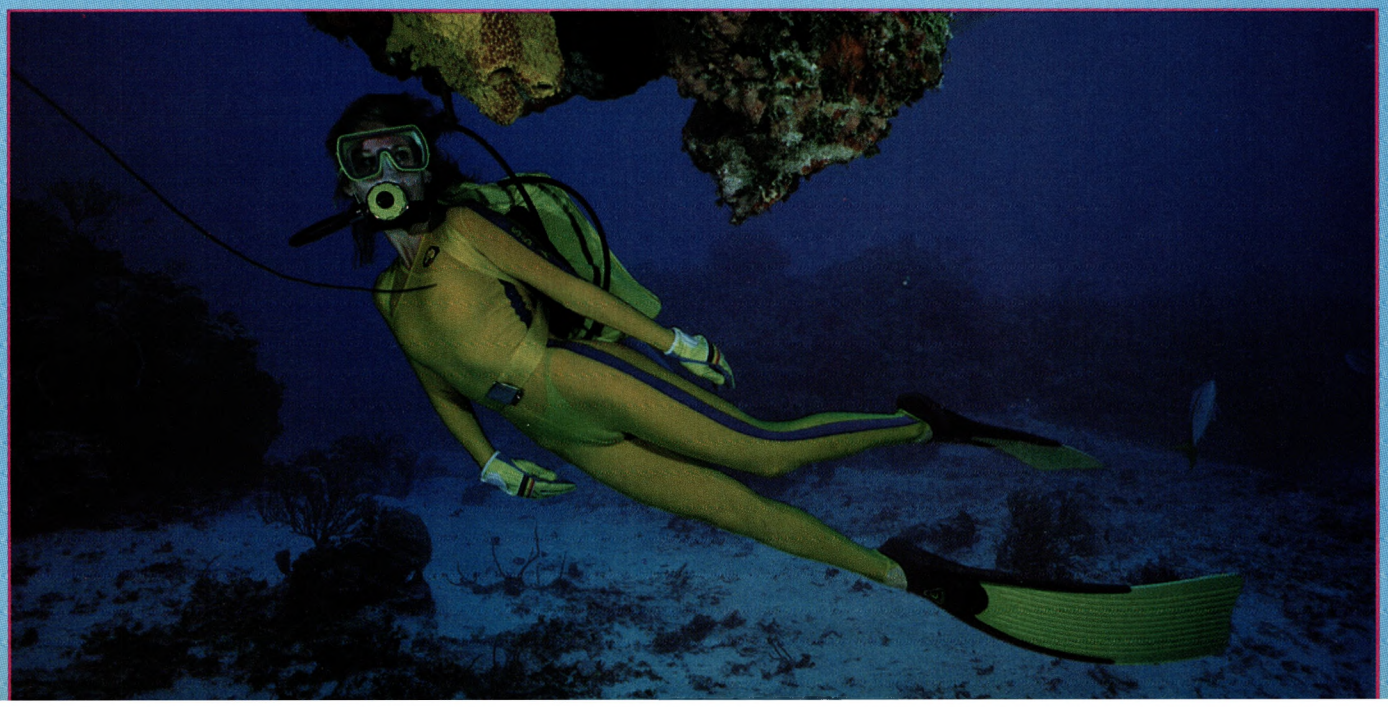
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK M. LAWRENCE

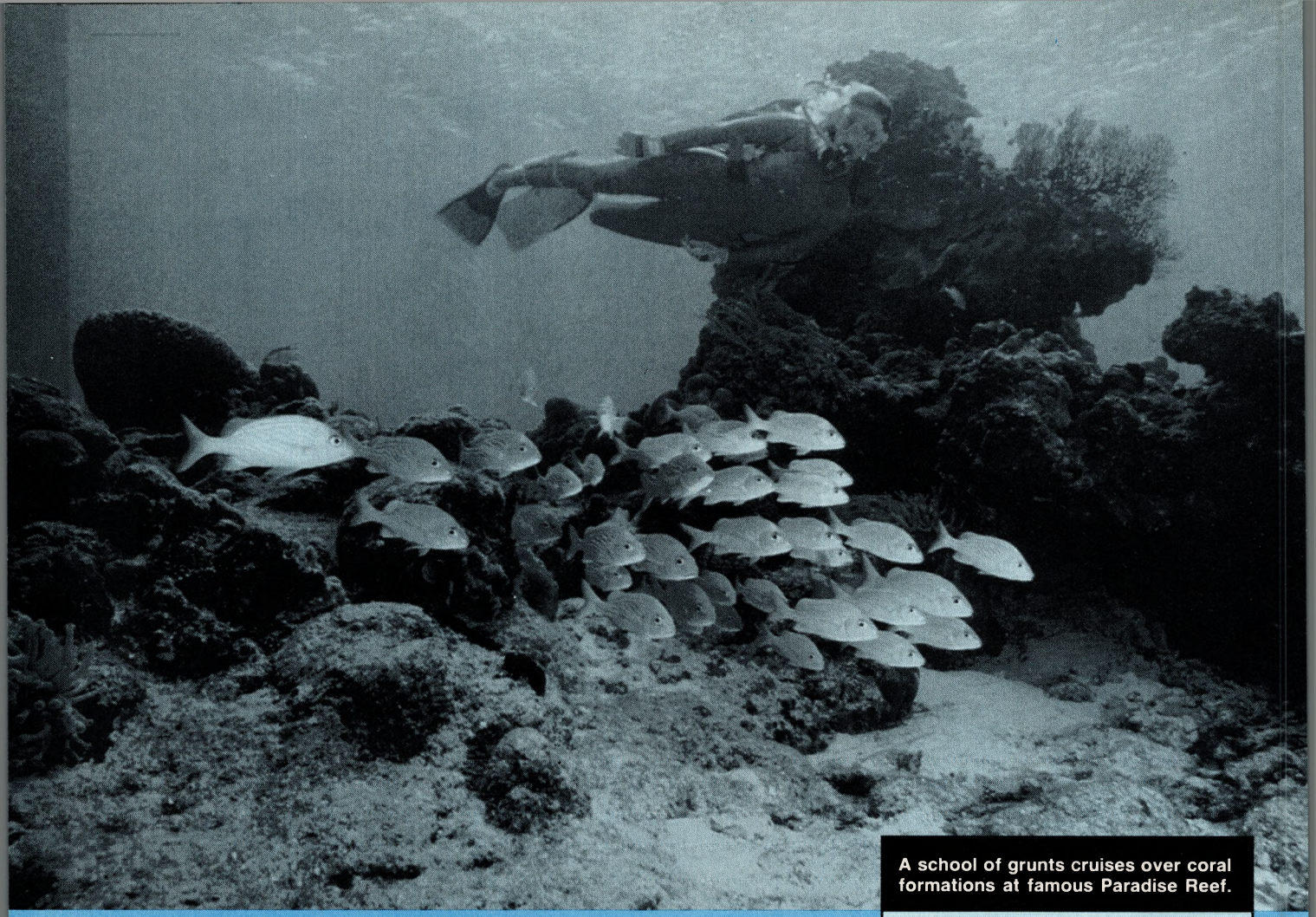


It used to be a safe bet when a Continental jet arrived on Mexico's extraordinary dive destination, Cozumel, that the first diver down the stairway would be a Texan. Sure, it's true the nonstop Continental flight originated in Houston, but it also used to be true that Texans were by far the most numerous visitors to Cozumel. While Texas is still well represented, today's visiting diver might just as easily come from California, Florida or the Midwest. New Yorkers are also beginning to recognize Cozumel as a premier dive travel destination. Although the various agencies offer slightly different figures, even the most conservative estimate states that more than 50 percent of Cozumel's visitors are divers. So what entices about 60,000 divers from around the world to come to Cozumel each year? There are several good reasons:

As the U.S. dollar continues to rise relative to the Mexican peso, our money becomes more and more valuable. First class hotel and resort accommodations are easily affordable to many divers. At the time of this writing, the prices of food, drink and transportation—already inexpensive a year ago—have become hard to beat. When was the last time you had a good meal and a great time out on the town for less than 20 dollars?

A Cozumel vacation offers more than just the benefits of a favorable monetary exchange rate. North Americans, entrenched in their frenetic nine to five grind, welcome the gentler pace of the traditional Mexican workday. After a few days on Cozumel, the siesta makes sense. There's no need to hustle off the dive boats in the afternoon; most of the shops have been closed since 1:00 pm. They reopen around 5:00 pm and remain open until 8:00 or 9:00 each night. Why





A school of grunts cruises over coral formations at famous Paradise Reef.

COZUMEL

rush around in the hot afternoon, when you can leisurely stroll from shop to shop in the evening, when it's balmy?

The general attitude on Cozumel, like its weather, is warm and friendly. Whoever you come in contact with, from grounds keeper to hotel manager, will be genuinely open to tourists. While many islanders speak excellent English, those who don't usually understand enough to help you on your way. If you wish to try your hand at Spanish, speak to your boat crew or hotel staff. The exercise becomes mutually beneficial when you pick up some basic phrases and they learn some new slang or other specialized terminology. Here in Cozumel, if you don't speak Spanish, it's no problem. You can enjoy the full experience of a foreign culture without any of the hassles.

When you walk around Cozumel's San Miguel, you are in a true Mexican town. Archaeological evidence indicates the Mayans had settled here by 600 AD. Records show the Spanish conquerors Juan de Grijalva and Hernando Cortes landed at this site in 1518 and 1519. Charles Lindbergh flew his *Spirit of St. Louis* to this island and the Queen of England, Her Royal Majesty Elizabeth the Second, has also visited Cozumel.

Obviously, San Miguel has a long and colorful history; it also has style. Like many Mexican villages, the activities concentrate in the central plaza. On the eastern side of the town square stands the church. A white seawall faces the western side of the plaza. In the center of the courtyard, the whitewashed bandstand also serves as a speakers' podium, folk dance stage and a convenient rendezvous point.

San Miguel and its plaza contribute to the mood and pleasure of the Cozumel experience. Despite San Miguel's rapid growth to 30,000 inhabitants over the last decade, the city has retained its Mexican small town charm. Merely to relate that couples may safely walk about the town at night ignores the truth that San Miguel is that special kind of place where you *want* to saunter around the town square in the evening. Laughter and music flow out of the restaurants and open air cafes, young men court young ladies and vendors sell a variety of refreshments and foodstuffs from handcarts. Many visitors return from the daily dive trips to freshen up at their hotels and then head to San Miguel for an evening of shopping for

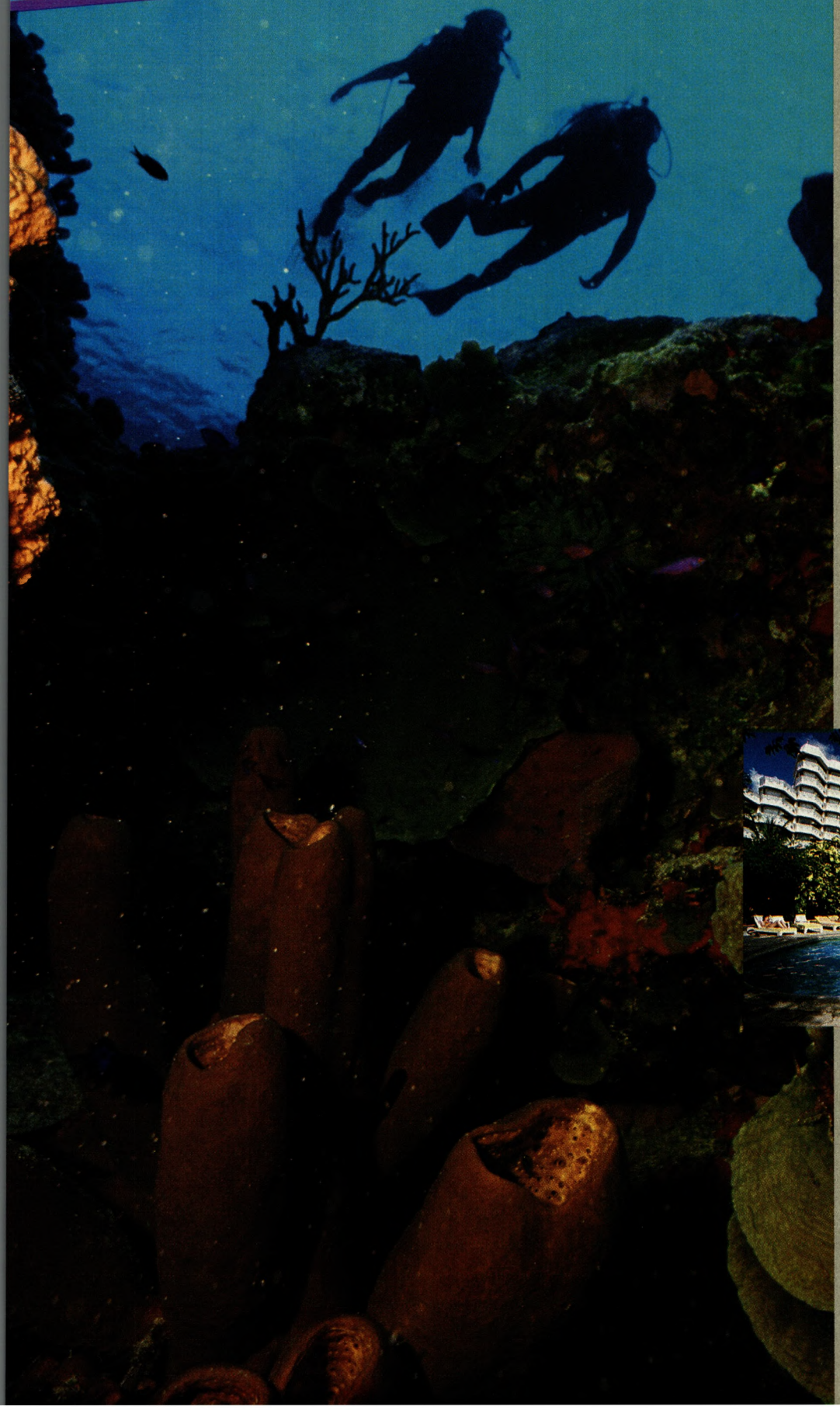
CURRENCY

While the U.S. dollar has performed poorly in the European and Japanese money markets, our dollar has made substantial gains over the Mexican peso. Only a couple of years ago, the dollar bought just under 400 pesos; at the time of this writing, the value of the U.S. dollar has surpassed the 1,500 peso mark!

In case you forget to obtain Mexican currency before leaving the United States, don't worry. There are money exchanges at Cozumel's airport just past customs near the automobile rental counters and the majority of the island's hotels convert traveler's checks and cash quickly, easily and at reasonable rates. Most restaurants and stores gladly accept U.S. currency. Please note that practically no one will accept personal checks. Few restaurants work with American Express, but many will take MasterCard and Visa credit cards.

The decline of the peso means that Mexican vacations are a great value. For instance, dinner for two, in one of Cozumel's better restaurants with an appetizer, entree, dessert, drinks and gratuity will probably cost less than $30 U.S. A good tip for a hardworking and attentive dive boat crew, consisting of a divemaster, captain and mate, averages out to around $2 per day per scuba diver. A taxi ride for one to five people from San Miguel's central plaza to most hotels costs less than $2.

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COZUMEL

handicrafts and jewelry, dining at fun restaurants and, lastly, winding down at one of the islands' discotheques.

As scuba enthusiasts, we all have one common prerequisite for choosing our vacation locale; the place must have great diving. Cozumel's got it! Eleven miles east of the Yucatan Peninsula, near the southern entrance to the Yucatan channel (the narrow funnel-like body of water that separates Cuba from Mexico while connecting the Caribbean Sea to the Gulf of Mexico), Cozumel sits on the edge of the Gulf Stream. Warm blue water migrates to the Western Caribbean and then siphons through the Yucatan channel. Clear, nutrient rich water washes along Cozumel's shores.

Over the millennium an amazingly intricate coral reef system has developed on this limestone island's southwestern coast. The same current that caresses Cozumel gives divers a wonderful opportunity to float across majestic coral drop-offs. Sailing past towering coral pinnacles, stalling momentarily in the calm eddies behind the immense formations and then catching the current again to glide onto the next submarine headlands may be the closest we can come to flying. The scene outside your mask slides by like a slow motion film shot from an airplane performing low altitude maneuvers around steep canyon walls.

Drift diving does require some experience. Although the actual step by step procedure differs from one dive operation to the next, the basic game plan is the same. On board the dive boat, people gear up so that once the first members of the dive party begin to enter the water, everyone is ready to go. Descending with the group, divemasters count heads, help adjust individuals' buoyancy and escort the group to the drop-off.

In the average 150 foot horizontal visibility it is easy for the group to spread out. With a little thought and attention, however, everyone can stay together. As members of the group reach the predetermined minimum air pressure level, they cluster around the divemaster. Leading them up, the divemasters usually ascend through one last colorful coral and sponge covered canyon toward shallower depths. On the surface, you will discover your boat has followed the group's bubbles and is waiting patiently for your return. Depending on the current's strength, you may have covered a few thousand feet or almost one mile of reef!

Recognizing the importance of Cozumel's reef system as both an irreplaceable natural treasure and a valuable economic resource, the Mexican government established a national park that encompasses all the reefs from South Paradise to Maracaibo. Although the sanctuary has been tentatively given many names, the majority of people refer to it as Palancar National Underwater Park. In many ways the local divemasters are the guardians of the marine park. Through their thorough briefings and alert handling of novice divers, the guides protect the delicate coral and sponges.

Many new divers believe that coral is as tough as stone. In reality, the colonies of coral polyps that comprise the living surface of the huge formations are quite frail. The single touch of a diver's finger can crush these sensitive animals. A careless kick can break off a coral branch that took scores of years to produce. On Cozumel they call such reckless divers "reef crashers." Dive operators follow some simple steps to avoid damaging the environment. All groups begin their tours over sandy patches. If someone settles to the bottom he/she merely produces a harmless cloud of dust. Before taking the group across the reef, the guides help everyone to attain neutral buoyancy. Wear only the minimum amount of lead that you require. Your air lasts longer when you are neutrally buoyant because you don't have to work to keep off the bottom.

Many divemasters also encourage customers to hold onto their gauges and extra second stages. These necessary safety items can become miniature grappling hooks when allowed to dangle beneath inattentive divers. As an added precaution, guests float one meter above the

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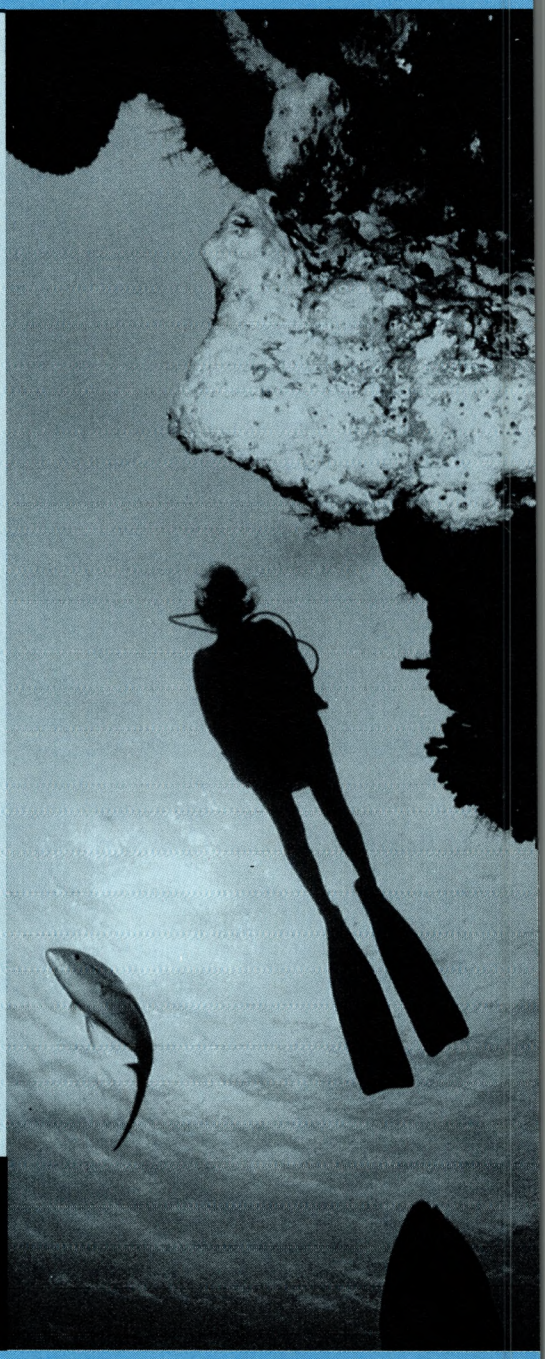
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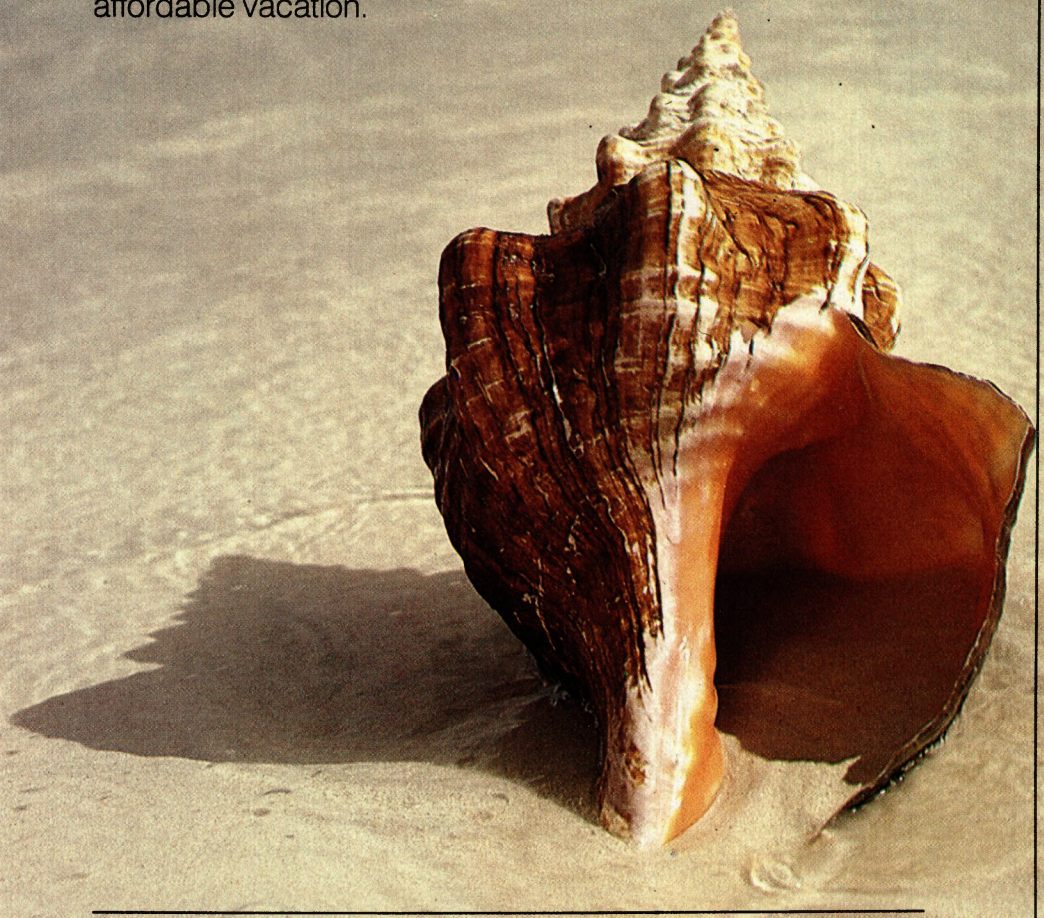
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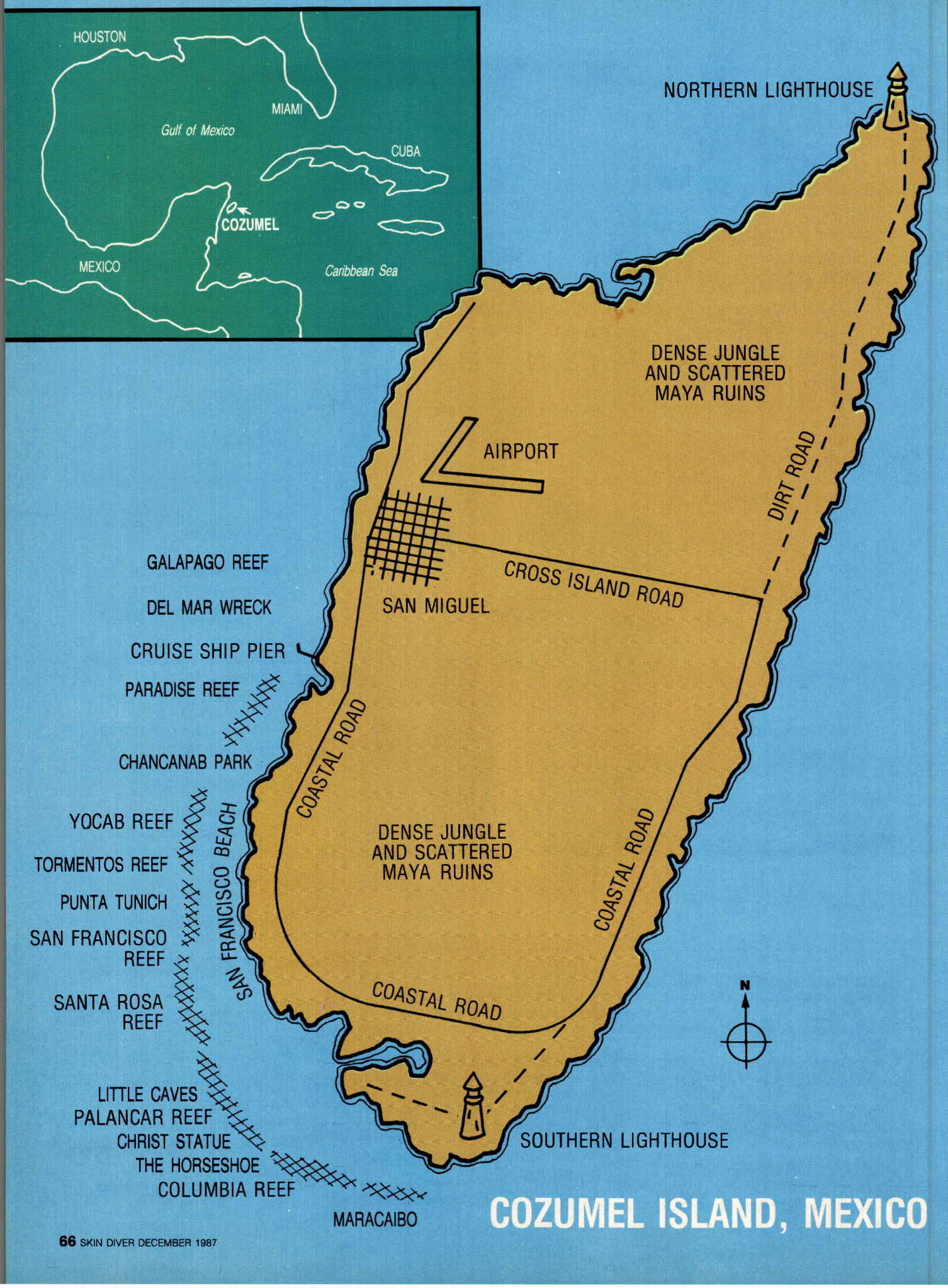
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reef. Experienced divers should automatically achieve neutral buoyancy, tuck in their loose paraphernalia and hover a couple of feet above the bottom. Therefore, the Cozumel divemasters are really just encouraging fundamental safe and sensible diving techniques.

As is the diving community as a whole, Cozumel continues to demonstrate an increasing sense of responsibility. Oxygen units, first aid kits and radios are quickly becoming standard issue for all dive boats. Predive briefings include provisions for exceeding the planned depth, low air situations and extra safety stops. As with other Caribbean destinations, Cozumel dive guides believe in diving inside the maximum U.S. Navy no-decompression limits.

In the past year, a private company, supported by several of the island's dive operators and commercial divers, has opened a recompression chamber facility in downtown San Miguel. Servicios de Seguridad Sub-Acuatica (Underwater Safety Services) maintains the hyperbaric chamber, marine ambulance and a 24 hour medical staff. Two large storage bottles feed the 54 foot double lock chamber. Aqua Safari's nearby submarine bottles also supply the system. Should Cozumel suffer an island-wide blackout, this redundant cascade arrangement delivers enough air to run a 5A, 5B or 6A table treatment. Monitoring both CB and VHF radios, the recompression facility stays in contact with three hyperbaric physicians and a Chris Craft boat that patrols the Palancar dive area from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm each day.

Space does not permit full descriptions of all the famous dive sites, but the following selections should give you a solid overview of Cozumel's fantastic diving. Because many flights, such as Continental's #1124 from Houston, arrive just past midday, the schedule grants you enough time to check into your hotel, unpack your gear and sample one of the shallow shore dives. If you haven't been "wet" in awhile, this is an excellent time to determine your weightbelt needs and fine tune your buoyancy skills.

At all locations, shallow as well as deep, the current can vary in direction and intensity. Pay attention to the orientation of hovering schools of fish and the sweep of soft corals to help determine the flow's direction. Don't forget to adjust your compass headings to compensate for the drift.

Perhaps the best known shallow dive is **The Airplane**, which lies just more than 100 yards off La Ceiba Hotel's swimming pier. Sunk originally as a prop for a Mexican disaster film, the overturned twin en-

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gine airplane now acts as a backdrop for many check-out and night dives. Grunts school beneath the wings and around the landing gear. Bold sergeant majors rush up to meet approaching divers. A spherical orange buoy marks the site. Look for the floating trail line that extends from the orange marker to judge the surface current's direction.

Just down the main road, 50 yards offshore Casa del Mar hotel, rests a small wooden ship nicknamed the **Del Mar Wreck**. Just as on The Airplane, tame sergeant majors searching for handouts envelop divers. Grunts shyly mill inside the decaying hull. Missing wooden slats and the sweeping lines of the little wreck combine to form great backlit silhouettes. The recommended exit is the same as the suggested entry point, the Del Mar Aquatics boat ramp.

Closer to the town of San Miguel, literally in the backyard of the hacienda style Galapago Inn, runs **Galapago Reef**. Scuba Cozumel and the inn continually add to their artificial reef project. Among the scattered coral heads and manmade debris near the seawall, divers find a wide assortment of small animals and macrophotography subjects.

For a different shallow dive try **Chancanab Park**. Admission to the grounds gives visitors access to the botanical gardens, La Laguna Restaurant, restrooms and dive sites. What, at first, appears to be a landlocked natural pool is actually linked to the sea by a maze of narrow passages that filter through the porous limestone bedrock. In the cove near the Caribbean Divers' dive shop, fish have become accustomed to snorkelers and divers. Many small caverns pierce the shoreline. Often brackish groundwater forms a shimmery boundary layer near the openings. Schooling silvery minnows gather near the mouth of some caves. Tarpon may lurk in the shadows.

For 20 years one reef name has been synonymous with Cozumel diving, **Palancar**. This complex reef system spreads over three miles. On the northern portion, the drop-off begins around 50 feet, but to the south the reef crests near 90 feet. Nu-

WATER

Although many visitors drink the local water and suffer no ill effects, be cautious. If you are unsure how your metabolism will react to the island's well water, play it safe and avoid drinking tap water. Even though the better hotels and restaurants filter their water, consider buying bottled purified water or drink mineral water and sodas when dining out.

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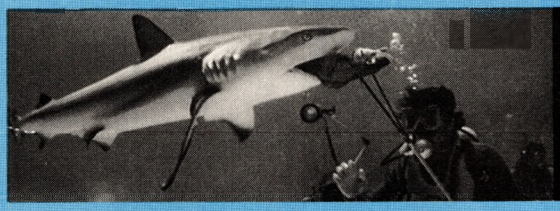
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merous narrow valleys cut into Palancar's steeply sloping face.

Palancar Gardens, on the Palancar system's northern end, has many winding alleyways and wide overhangs. Look for yellow sponges growing from beneath the underside of the ledges as well as on the reef top. Thin crevices and tunnels identify **Little Caves**. **The Horseshoe**, formed by towering coral heads that merge to create a huge bowl, shelters the **Christ Statue**.

Farther south is **Palancar Caves**. Like Palancar Gardens, Palancar Caves, with its deep cuts, crevices and tunnels, is a super photography dive.

Because of the depth, **Deep Palancar** is for truly experienced divers only. The impressive wall crests at 90-100 feet.

Many people feel that **Columbia**, the next major reef system south of Palancar, equals Palancar's impressive topography. Coral plates stack up to form mighty pinnacles and ridges. Keep an eye on the blue water off Columbia, near the reef top around 70-90 feet, to spot schools of jacks or large sea turtles.

To the North of Palancar is my favorite

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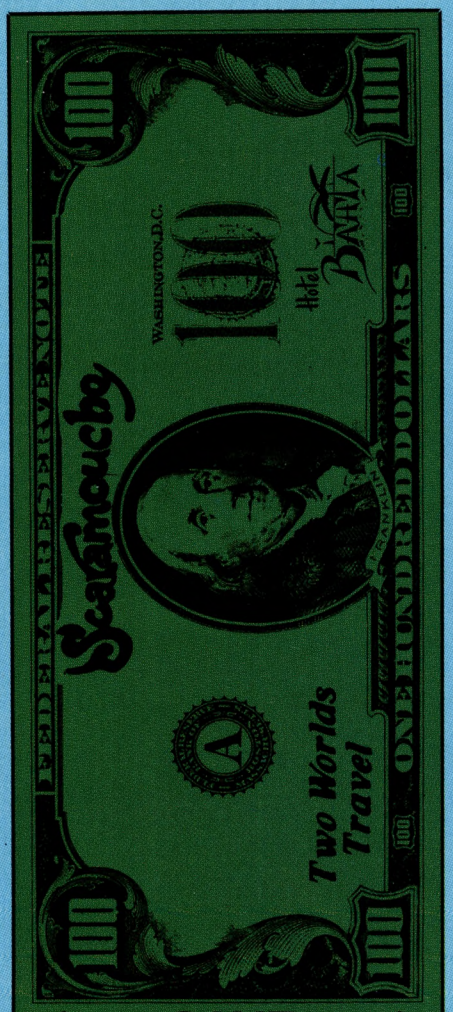
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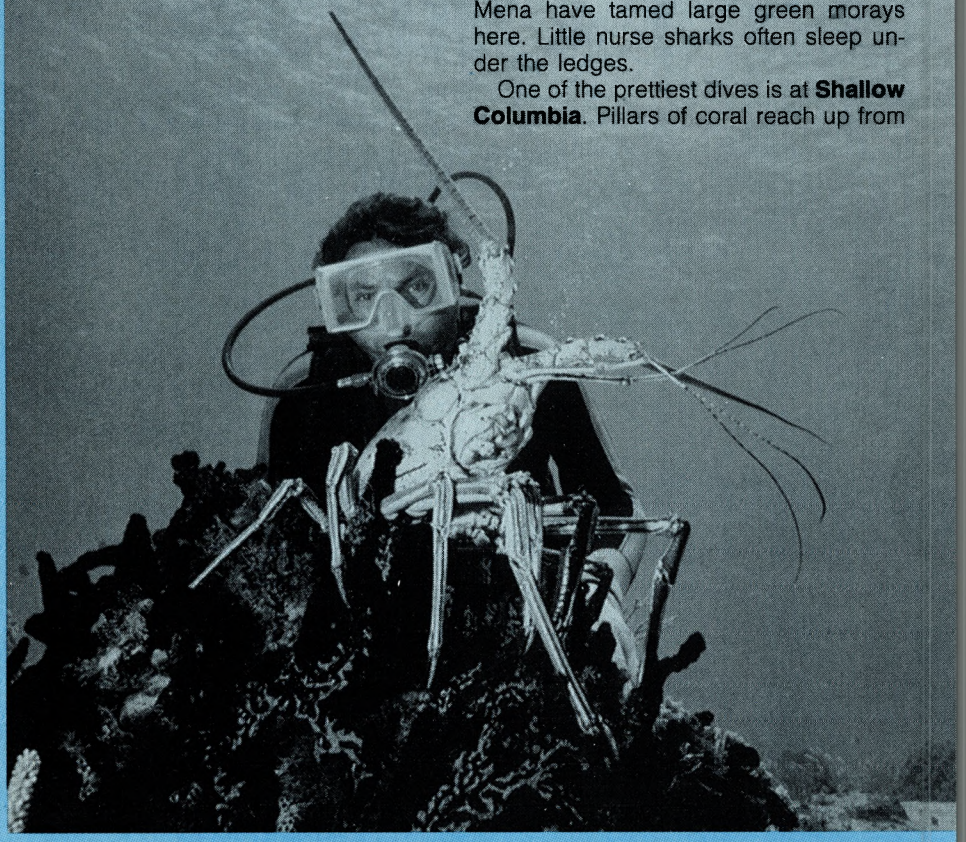
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reef, **Santa Rosa Wall**. Since the reef peaks at approximately 50 feet, you needn't descend far to enjoy the full impact of the wall. Great coral buttresses rise from the ocean floor. A series of wide canyons split the reefline. Carpets of club finger corals and patches of entwined staghorn branches highlight the reef top.

resident spotted moray eels. The diverse fauna and the accessibility of Paradise Reef make it a popular night dive.

Scattered coral heads and low ledges rise off the bottom at **Tormentos Reef**. In depths averaging 35 feet you have plenty of time to search for crinoids and anemones. **Punta Tunich** runs a little deeper. Care must be taken when crossing from one section of the reef to the next not to slip down below 50 feet. Its proximity to the main drop-off means that pelagic fish sometimes venture in over Punta Tunich. Guides such as Carlos Mena have tamed large green morays here. Little nurse sharks often sleep under the ledges.

One of the prettiest dives is at **Shallow Columbia**. Pillars of coral reach up from



Carlos Mena with lobster at Santa Rosa Wall. A series of canyons splits the reef here.

Divemasters have no problem luring gigantic groupers up the wall for handfeeding sessions.

While most divers recall Palancar as an assemblage of colossal coral monuments, these same visitors remember **La Ceiba Wall** for its many sponges and gorgonians. The prevailing currents have caused some of the large basket sponges to acquire a peculiarly curved form. This slope begins at 50-60 feet and drops sharply into the blue.

You could easily spend an entire vacation diving reefs with depths averaging 30-50 feet. **Paradise Reef** exemplifies the type of site where many boats might stop for the second dive of a day. This system consists of a series of long reef blocks that start north of El Presidente Hotel and terminate south of La Ceiba cruise ship pier. Frequent diving has allowed the marine life to become accustomed to divers. Some divemasters regularly handfeed and actively handle the

the bottom at 30 feet to within eight feet of the surface. A curving line of giant coral slabs at one location on Shallow Columbia looks like a submerged version of England's Stonehenge. Check the caves for retiring spider crabs.

Cozumel dive professionals may have differing opinions on some subjects and unique operating styles, but they all share a common thread of pride. In conversations this year it became apparent that these individuals are proud of the quality service they offer and proud of Cozumel's underwater beauty. All organizations offer two tank charters. The traditional program plans for a departure somewhere between 9:00 and 10:00 am and returns in the neighborhood of 3:30 to 5:00 pm. These itineraries include lunch on one of the wide white beaches after the first wall dive.

At Playa Escondida or Playa San Francisco, dive boats pull up stern first to within a few feet of the beach. Guests dis-

embark and gather under the thatched roofs housing the kitchens and dining areas. The midday meal may include fresh grilled fish, chicken or Mexican specialties. With one mile or more of open beach, you never have to search for a good sun tanning spot. Of course, there's always room for one more player in the lunchtime volleyball matches. Afterward, it's off to the second dive.

An alternate schedule is gaining acceptance. Beginning with a slightly earlier departure and a fast trip, guests enjoy the usual type of wall dive. Most boats allow divers to choose between remaining on board to eat sandwiches and fresh fruit or heading into a beach for a brief luncheon break. After the second dive the crafts speed back to the docks. Such vessels return around 1:00 pm and schedule afternoon trips upon request.

All Cozumel dive shops recognize and respect the major U.S. and European certifying agencies. When you check in initially, plan on presenting your C-card. While only a few shop personnel will ask to see your logbook, all operators casually work a few pertinent questions relating to your recent diving experience into the conversation. Without exception, you could walk into any one of the facilities carrying nothing more than your C-card and rent everything needed to go diving. The majority of companies also rent dive lights and cameras. Although most staffs include more than one instructor, contact the operation of your choice before arriving on Cozumel to schedule your scuba referral or check-out dives.

Cozumel is a popular locale for training. Unfortunately, limited space prevents listing the entire Cozumel dive community. What follows does, however, represent a fair cross-section of the diverse operators and the services they offer. Some firms have more than one storefront in San Miguel or at the hotels. Scuba Cozumel has complete facilities both in San Miguel and at the Galapago Inn. Carlos Sierra's Dive Cozumel downtown store complements the main branch at the Divers Inn. Caribbean Divers work from the city store and the Chancanab Park plant. Although Fantasia Divers headquarters its business at the Sol Caribe hotel, this group also runs operations at La Ceiba and El Presidente hotels.

Other companies, such as Club Cozumel Caribe Divers and Palancar Divers, place their emphasis with one principal resort location. All Cozumel dive trip operators welcome walk-in traffic. On the island, any company may pick up from any given hotel's dock. Such cooperation speaks well of the business community.

Aqua Safari, Dive Paradise and Neptuno Divers are all downtown establishments with full service scuba facilities that work in conjunction with many San Miguel hotels and other resorts. At the southern cluster of hotels, in front of Casa del Mar, Del Mar Aquatics services its

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COZUMEL DEL MAR AQUATICS

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RESTAURANTS

Acuario Restaurant
Melgar Avenue and 11th St.
Phone 21097
(seafood)

Carlos 'n Charlie's & Jimmy's Kitchen
Melgar Avenue
Phone 20191
(ribs, seafood, Mexican)

Costa Brava
600 Melgar Avenue
(Mexican, seafood)

El Caracol
Phone 20411
(seafood)

El Foco
Avenue 5, Sur 13
(Mexican)

El Portal
Phone 20227
(steaks, seafood)

Ernesto's Fajitas Factory
Divers Inn
Phone 20145
(Tex-Mex)

Karen's Pizza
Downtown
Phone 21347
(Italian)

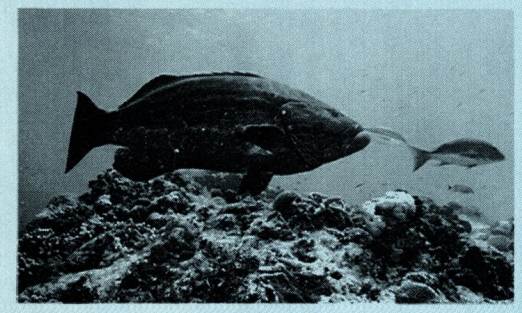
La Casa del Pescado
Sol Caribe Hotel
Phone 20700
(seafood, steaks, Mexican)

La Ceiba
La Ceiba Hotel
Phone 20379
(Continental, seafood)

La Gaviota
Sol Caribe Hotel
Phone 20700
(Continental, Mexican)

Las Palmeros
Across from the main pier downtown
(American, Mexican, seafood)

Las Tortugas
10 Avenue Norte, #82
(Mexican, Mayan, seafood)



Morgan's
At the Plaza
Phone 20584
(Continental, steaks, seafood)

Pepe's Grill
Melgar Avenue and Rosado Salas
Phone 20213
(Mexican, seafood, steaks)

Pizza Rolandi
Melgar Avenue
(Italian)

Plaza Leza
Main Plaza
(Mexican, seafood, steaks)

Restaurant-Bar Royale
Melgar Avenue, ½ block south of Plaza
Phone: 21259
(Mexican, steaks, seafood)

Soberanis
Rafael Melgar, #471
Phone 20246
(seafood, Mexican)

Sports Page
2nd St. and 5th Avenue
Phone 21199
(American)

The Fat Grouper
Galapago Inn
Phone 20663
(seafood, Mexican, Mayan)



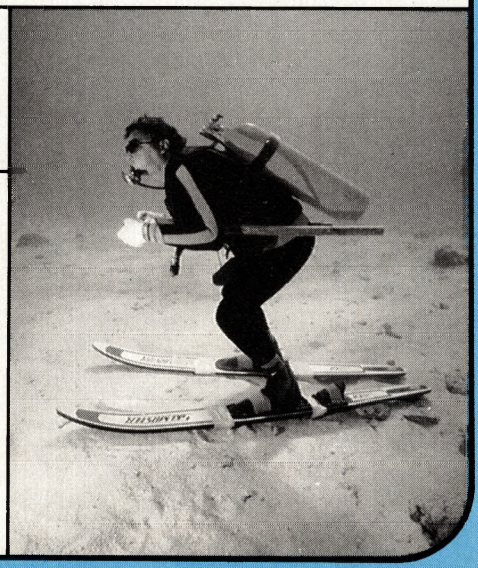
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COZUMEL





Opposite: Grouper at Santa Rosa. Above: View of San Miguel from Sol Caribe. Right: Cafe, Museo de la Isla de Cozumel.

companion resort and offers packages with other hotels in and outside of San Miguel. From its southern beach facility, Playa Maya Divers arranges dive programs with many of the island's hotels.

Since these dive companies are made up of many unique individuals, it's tough to characterize each firm. In the north, CLUB COZUMEL CARIBE DIVERS' inclusive program allows certified guests to join the daily dive trips. Guests may also sign up for added mainland cruises or special overnight cruise/dive trips. Although such unusual excursions, certification classes, etc. are not included in the standard package, Club Cozumel Caribe Divers regularly offers these options.

CARIBBEAN DIVERS has a variety of trips for the Mayan Plaza hotel and other resorts. Besides the traditional full day dive trips, Caribbean Divers utilizes its fleet to simultaneously conduct quick one-half day/two tank trips.

As with most island operators, AQUA SAFARI staff members communicate a strong and positive view of the emerging conservation practices. Their well equipped dive boats and extensive rental inventory echo their concerns for diver safety and comfort. Aqua Safari and Dive Paradise have on-premises guest gear storage and showers. Stop by Dive Paradise and pick up their informative Insider's Guide Sheet: This handy tabloid has a lot of information about Cozumel.

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CARLOS SIERRA'S DIVE OPERATIONS
Reservation Center - Beverly Culbreath P.O. Box 2306 Baytown, TX 77522 800-445-4716 and 713-421-2170

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COZUMEL

DIVERS offer two tank charters and the full gamut of certification courses. When tourists come to Neptuno, they discover a multifaceted company ready to dive, dine and dance them. Neptuno's docks and facilities adjoin the Acuario (Aquarium) Restaurant. Only one block away is the Neptuno Disco.

The welcome ambiance of the Galapago Inn's hacienda style hotel lends its charisma to SCUBA COZUMEL's operation there. The diver-friendly layout of the dockside area and the relaxed but professional attitude of the staff make their two tank trips enjoyable.

DEL MAR AQUATICS at Casa del Mar may be one of the newest operations on the island, but the same administration and staff have been successfully managing the earlier projects, such as La Ceiba hotel, for more than a decade. The swift monohull flattops depart from the Del Mar dock, dive shop and gear storage complex for two tank trips twice each day.

FANTASIA DIVERS DE MEXICO, near the Maya 2000 discotheque in front of the Sol Caribe hotel, is also well known in Loreto. Fantasia Divers may be a large, resourceful watersport company, but there is nothing impersonal about the manner in which its staff relates to guests.

Like Fantasia Divers, CARLOS SIERRA'S DIVE COZUMEL staff (and his subsidiary, PALANCAR DIVERS), has been diving Cozumel reefs for years. Sierra is, at the time of this writing, awaiting delivery of his new live-aboard.

PLAYA MAYA DIVERS designs its programs for those who prefer small boat operations. Playa Maya Divers' beachfront headquarters is only a 15 minute boat ride from Palancar Reef, a five minute swim from Inner Cardona Reef and a short, cheap taxi ride from San Miguel.

Hotel accommodations on Cozumel are as varied as the dive operations. Both MAYAN PLAZA and CLUB COZUMEL CARIBE stand out on the northern coast. If you still have a lot of energy after your dive trip, you can windsurf down Mayan Plaza's long beach. Those with slightly less adrenaline will enjoy lounging in the shade of one of the *palapas* or swimming briskly across the freshwater pool for a Margarita refill. Club Cozumel Caribe's philosophy is why worry about incidental charges? All meals, drinks, sailing and even one-half day, two tank dive charters are covered in one package price. Wood and leather furniture and wide arches accent the large bedrooms. With such an environment, it is no wonder everyone looks content.

If you stay at the BAHIA HOTEL or Meson San Miguel, you will be right in the middle of all the evenings' activities. At night the streets and courtyards of the city come alive with couples and divers wandering in and out of the shops, restaurants and discos. All of Bahia Hotel's 25 air-conditioned rooms come with cable TV, kitchenette and refrigerator.

MESON SAN MIGUEL stands on the north side of the town center. Its quaint sidewalk cafe is the perfect place to sit and watch the people stroll around the town square.

Just outside of town, along the coastal road south of San Miguel, you will find the GALAPAGO INN. The 34 room hotel—constructed around a courtyard that contains fountains, a freshwater swimming pool, a two story building that houses the Fat Grouper restaurant, the Scuba Cozumel dive shop and a handicrafts shop—has developed a loyal following that many other hotels admire. After all, who wouldn't like a hotel where only a few steps away from the dive boats hang some inviting hammocks, perfect for some serious sunset watching?

LA CEIBA HOTEL has a comparable method for relaxing after a dive trip. It installed a 10 x 20 foot hottub that faces west. The 110 room La Ceiba Hotel has been a well known dive resort for the last ten years. With ongoing improvements

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such as the new secure diver lockers by the boat docks, La Ceiba tower will remain a familiar image to many divers.

A block or two away, the last coat of paint is being applied to the CASA DEL MAR hotel. La Ceiba management took its past experiences and designed the Casa del Mar for divers. The well placed

Left: A Maya idol on display at Museo de la Isla de Cozumel. Below: Relaxing on the sunny beach at the Mayan Plaza hotel.

wood, tile and thatched roof open dining area give the otherwise modern looking hotel a Mexican and island flair.

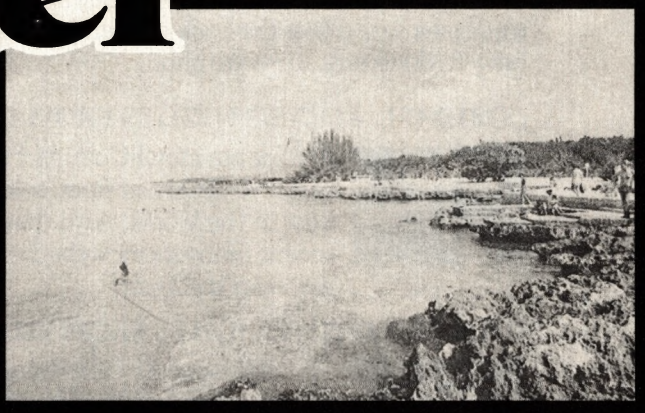
From the top floor of the SOL CARIBE you can look across the neighboring hotels to the mainland 11 miles away. In the other direction an unspoiled tropical forest spreads to the far side of the island. From the giant wooden conical roof that covers the open air reception area to the V-shaped contemporary 220 room wing, the hotel grounds are distinctive. You can reach the bar on the island in the middle of the freshwater pool either by staying dry and crossing one of two foot bridges or by taking the plunge and swimming up to the submerged chairs. While still remaining on hotel property you can choose between dining casually or elegantly. Cap the evening off by admiring the new laser light show at the Maya 2000 disco.

Head about one mile south along the coastal road and you will find EL PRESIDENTE HOTEL. Like the Sol Caribe and La Ceiba, El Presidente is committed to upgrading. Although plans for a new gym, more rooms and a new swimming pool involve major changes, the management will not alter the tranquil beachfront setting that has been so popular.

At some point during his/her stay everyone explores the handicraft, clothing and jewelry shops. Low prices make

Cozumel







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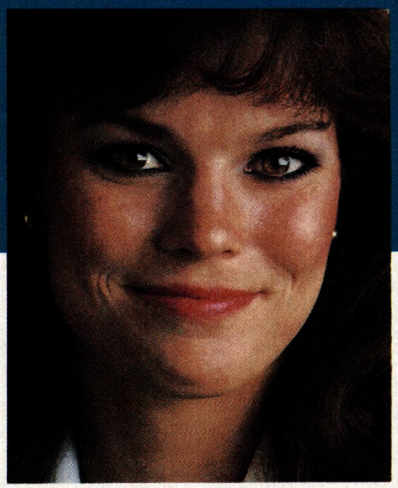
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HOTELS/MEXICO

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Mexican goods hard to resist. Silver jewelry items, many featuring gemstones from the mainland, come in all sizes and designs. Before you finish shopping and head out, you will probably find at least one-half dozen rings, bracelets and necklaces that will fit into your budget. Colorfully painted life-sized papier-maché parrots hang in windows. Displays of hand decorated leather goods beg for closer inspection. Handmade pottery and hand-blown glassware make attractive dinner settings. While the men try on Mexican shirts, the ladies examine light cotton and lace dresses.

Divers tend to be a sociable lot. After a day of diving they also tend to be hungry. Once again, Cozumel has several appealing alternatives. It is safe to say that almost every resort has at least one good restaurant. Take, for instance, the varied continental fare at Sol Caribe's La Gaviota, or the Fat Grouper at the Galapago Inn, whose daily menu usually includes at least one interesting Mexican or Maya specialty.

If you head into San Miguel looking for an excellent meal in pleasant surroundings, Morgan's on the northeast corner of the town plaza is a winner. Sample their

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Cozumel Maya Rent
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La Ceiba
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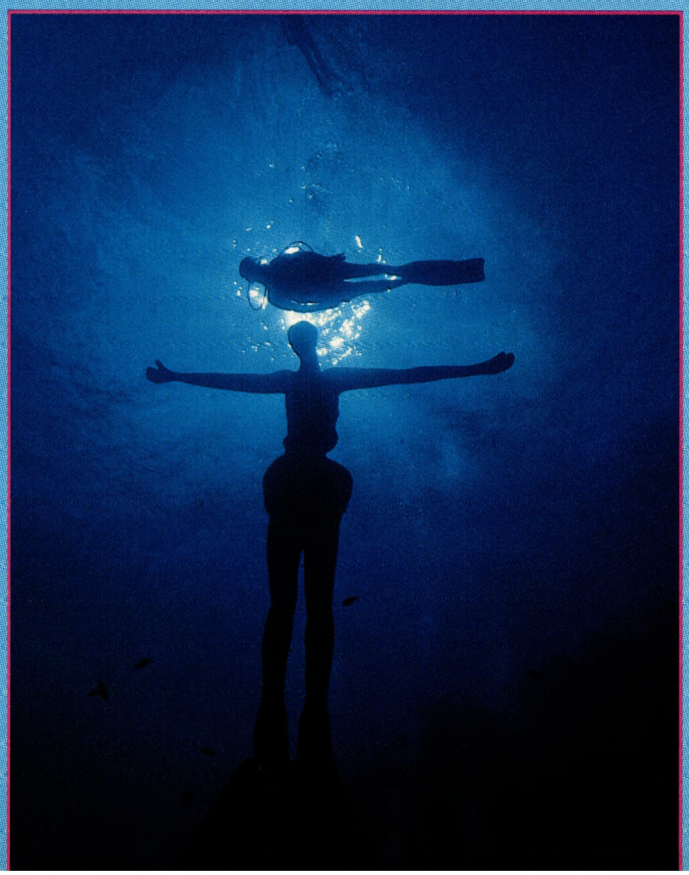




COZUMEL







Clockwise, starting top right: Acuario Restaurant features a nautical decor and fish-filled aquariums. Continental Airlines offers service to Cozumel. Some flights are early enough to allow a shallow shore dive on the afternoon of arrival. A diver poses above the Sacred Protector of the Ocean. This statue of Christ is surrounded by coral heads. Two divers explore one of the many winding alleyways at Palancar Gardens. A wreck provides a photographic backdrop off Casa del Mar.

Aztec tortilla soup or shrimp orly, prepared with butter, garlic and paprika.

The aquariums and nautical furnishings complete the setting for outstanding seafood at the Acuario Restaurant. Mariachis add to the mood at both the Acuario and Pepe's Grill. Pepe's tempting specialties change daily, but he always serves a great prime rib as well as fresh fish.

On the north side of town is Pizza Rolandi. If uniquely flavored pizza from wooden hearths doesn't interest you, maybe the other Italian entreés will.

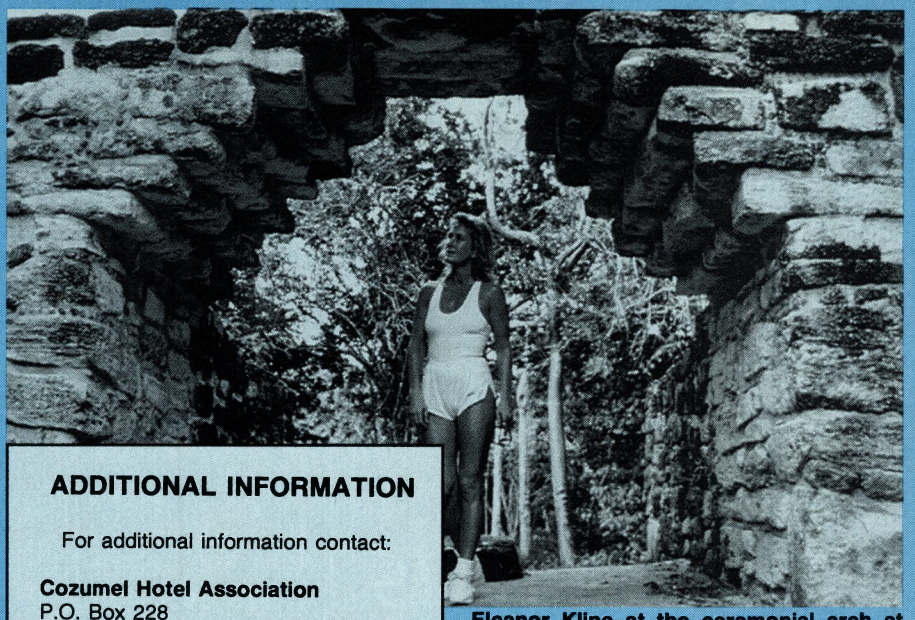
South of town, by Dive Paradise, at the Costa Brava Restaurant & Bar, you ought to try the king crab or conch.

Although dress at these restaurants is casual by U.S. standards, after a day of diving if you are more in the mood for a "come as you are" atmosphere, you still have many choices. As the name implies, Ernesto's Fajitas Factory at the Divers Inn is a great place to relax and enjoy a large order of beef, chicken or shrimp fajitas. There is a good breakfast as well.

Monday evenings you can always find a crowd cheering on the football games at The Sports Page.

In the mood for a little crazy fun? The crowd at Carlos 'n Charlie's will get you going. Out from Jimmy's kitchen at Carlos 'n Charlie's emerge tasty ribs, seafood and Mexican specialties.

Maybe there is something in the air.



Eleanor Kline at the ceremonial arch at San Gervasio. This area is rich in history.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

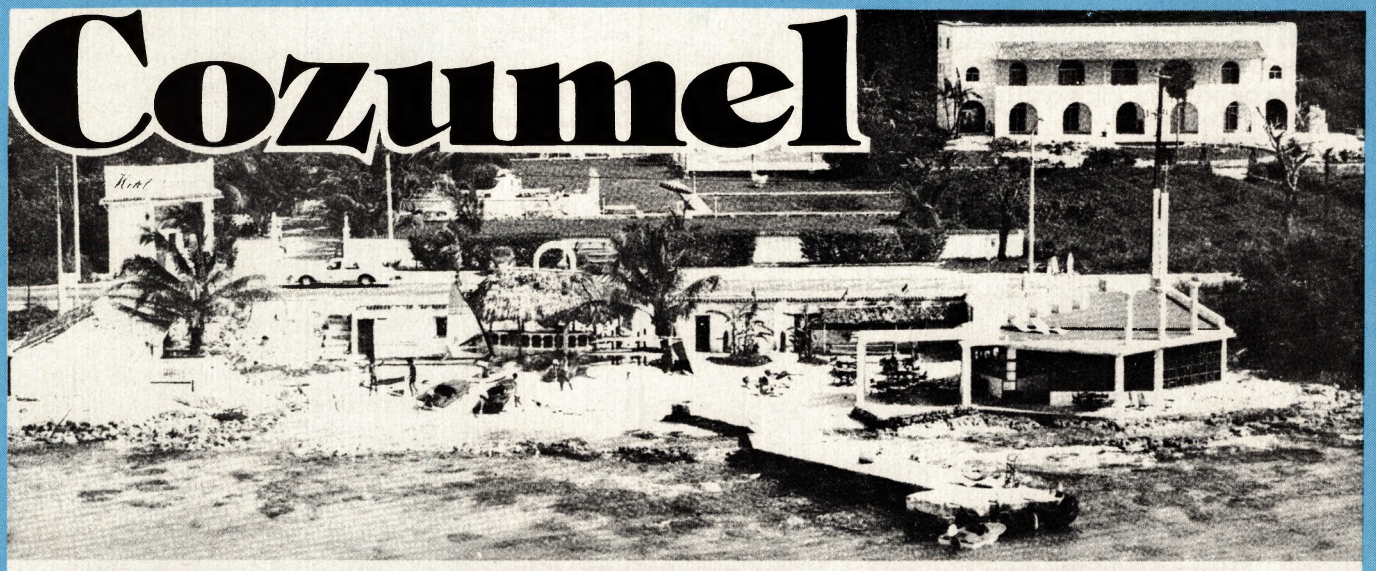
For additional information contact:

Cozumel Hotel Association
P.O. Box 228
Cozumel, Q. Roo, Mexico 77600

Mexican National Tourist Council
405 Park Avenue
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Perhaps it takes less time for people to unwind on Cozumel. Sooner or later nearly everyone visits the islands' discotheques. Downtown on Melgar Avenue across the street from Pepe's Grill, conveniently situated Scaramouche draws in the after dinner set to burn off a few calories beneath an exotic light show on the



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COZUMEL

dance floor. Farther south, near the Acuario Restaurant, Neptuno Discotheque's lights and sound system also attract quite a crowd. In the middle of the southern cluster of hotels, opposite Sol Caribe, Maya 2000 appeals to the nearby resort guests. The sheltered cove next to the Maya 2000 is perfect for cooling dance-worn feet.

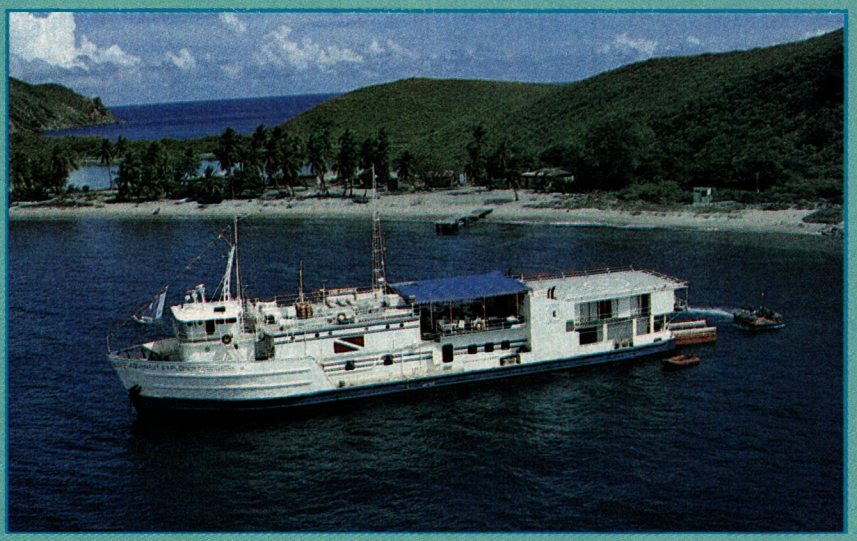
There is more to Cozumel's topside scene than shopping, wining and dining. Bring your tennis racket and running shoes; there are plenty of good tennis courts and miles of flat roads. At the Seahorse Ranch you can go horseback riding. Sport fishermen can find plenty of challenges out in the deep channel that separates Cozumel from the Yucatan. Renting a car or moped is not only easy but also a good way to tour the island. If you choose mopeds stay on the well maintained coastal road. The better marked beaches such as Playa Maya may be easy to find, but the adventurous souls who head farther down the southwestern coast to find a deserted beach usually come back happy. Past the ruins at El Cedral, the road swings eastward. The beaches and the lighthouse down the unpaved road are worth the drive.

Museo de la Isla de Cozumel's four exhibition halls are thoughtfully and professionally arranged. You gain a fascinating look into the history, geology and biology of this special island. Unless you are willing to wade out into the swamps, you may never see some of the bizarre and rare animals that inhabit Cozumel. It is much simpler to find them on display in the museum.

Many visitors to Cozumel schedule an extra day to see the Maya ruins on the mainland or ride the jet ferry to Playa del Carmen and Cancun. It takes a full day to fly over and tour both Tulum and Chichen Itza. If you're are a little short on time, walk through the recently excavated ruins at San Gervasio. Head west down the cross island highway and watch for signs on your left. Six kilometers down the bumpy trail you will spot the park. Pick up the self-guided tour map and the green guide book.

Yes, there are several good reasons why Cozumel is a world class diving destination: exciting diving, great atmosphere and friendly people. For 20 years, this island has been known for its unspoiled beauty. Thanks to the creation of the underwater national park by the Mexican government and the support of conservation measures by the island's hoteliers and dive operators, Cozumel will continue to be one of the world's best dive destinations.

TRAVEL



AQUANAUT EXPLORER

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TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARBARA CURRIE



Above: Captains Gerry Hytha (right) and Erich Heindl. Top: The 165 foot M/S *Aquanaut Explorer* is more a cruise ship than a live-aboard dive boat.

A *cruise ship*—not a live-aboard boat—designed for divers? That's how captains Gerry Hytha and Erich Heindl described their latest diving venture, the M/S *Aquanaut Explorer*, based in Road Town, Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. They invited me to spend a week experiencing this new concept in live-aboard vacations for the upscale market of divers.

This was no impetuous, whimsical gimmick. Both Gerry and Erich hold unlimited master licenses as sea captains and have 35 years' experience all over the world in diving, underwater photography and filmmaking, adventure tours—and the cruise ship field. They have captained 1,000 passenger cruise ships and, in the past three years, created the highly successful Aquanaut program for Commodore Cruise Lines, a learn-to-dive vacation currently a popular option on the M/S *Caribe*.

After thousands of clients over the past few years asked them, "Why don't you design a small cruise ship for divers?" the concept of divers traveling in comfort with cruise-ship quality amenities while enjoying a moveable feast of dive sites, made sense to the Austrian-born partners. They found the ideal ship two years ago and began redesigning her, according to their specifications, to suit divers.

The M/S *Aquanaut Explorer* is an extremely seaworthy vessel originally built for trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific oil exploration expeditions to Alaska and the Philippines. She carries 70,000 gallons of fresh water, 75,000 gallons of diesel fuel and has enough generator capacity to light up a small village. Yet, the ship is small enough to cruise through waters that larger cruise ships cannot.

By international standards, this is a cruise ship, not a dive boat. She carries an international SOLAS passenger ship certificate with Panama registry. This means the *Aquanaut Explorer* meets all the international safety standards of a cruise ship, including fully licensed crew. It is the largest live-aboard dive vessel in the Western Hemisphere and the only one of its kind in the world. Next year, the 200 foot M/S *Aquanaut Holiday* will join the fleet, undertaking 7-14 day cruises through the Eastern Caribbean.

Captain Gerry Hytha had called long distance from on board the ship to confirm my trip—thanks to the sophisticated communications system on the *Aquanaut Explorer*, which includes not only satellite telephone, but also satellite navigation and weather-fax unit.

I was packed and off to St. Thomas a few days later, sharing an hour-long ferry ride to Tortola with eight other guests. They collectively expressed some skepticism about that overused superlative "luxury" in the diving industry and we speculated about how the M/S *Aquanaut Explorer* would compare with its promotional material.

As we approached the customs dock in Road Town, we got our first glimpse of the ship. It was 165 feet long and 40 feet wide, dwarfing every

(Continued on Page 88)

PERSONALIZED LIVE-ABOARDS

GREAT TRIPS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARL ROESSLER

photo/Bill Gleason





***Colona II*—Red Sea**



***Sun Tamarin*—Palau**



***Cadaques*—French Caribbean**



***Sta Reta*—Fiji**



***Aquanaut*—Turks and Caicos**



***Andaman Explorer*—Thailand**

Many divers envision a live-aboard as 100 feet long or more, carrying 12-18 passengers. Famous live-aboards such as the Cayman and Belize *Aggressors*, *Isla Mia* in Belize, *Pacific Nomad* in Fiji, *Tristar* in the Philippines, *Thorfinn* in Truk Lagoon and *Coralita* in Australia are prime examples of the new generation of major dive cruisers.

And yet there are circumstances in which the larger live-aboards may not suit your needs. A couple traveling with children may need more crew assistance so they may enjoy their own time in the water; two couples that include a nondiver may want to mix intense diving with explorations ashore; a few individuals may want to accent a particular type of diving or marine life and have the boat and crew cater to their specific needs; newlyweds may prefer to be by themselves.

The answer in all these cases is a smaller live-aboard designed for groups of three to six and a crew prepared to flex with the differing needs of each group. There are several superb examples of personalized cruisers for small groups, offering diving in some of the world's greatest locales.

Wonderfully convenient and price-effective is the 50 foot *Aquanaut* in the Turks and Caicos islands, just south of the Bahamas. For three or four persons Captain Bob can fashion a full-blast dive charter or he can break the diving with beach picnics or trips to town. No two trips are alike, because each arriving group requests, in advance, how they would like their week to run. Captain Bob is then advised, so he can offer incoming passengers their dream week on the beautiful reefs and remote beaches of these islands.

In Baja California, the 50 foot *Elias Mann* offers groups of three to four the ability to tailor their diving schedule: Some groups want to maximize their time at the famed seamounts to look for ham-

(Continued on Page 104)

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AQUANAUT EXPLORER

(Continued from Page 85)

other vessel in the harbor. On its top deck was a helicopter—used for sightseeing and aerial photography, we learned later. We could see the two 20 foot flattop dive tenders on the lower deck. Jerry, an attorney and live-aboard *aficionado*, remarked, "She looks like the Cunard line of live-aboard dive vacations!"

When we boarded the ship after clearing customs and immigration, Captain Gerry welcomed us. The other 14 passengers had already arrived and we were assisted to our staterooms and showed where to stow our dive gear in a convenient area on the lower deck. While I was recovering from my first look at my marvelous seagoing suite, I wondered if I'd ever see the other passengers again: The *Aquanaut Explorer* is huge, spacious and private; if you crave solitude, it's there. The ship has 22 private staterooms, including eight deluxe rooms with queen or full sized beds and private or semi-private balconies. It can accommodate 36 guests—crowding is never allowed. All staterooms have private baths and all are outside cabins above the waterline; those without balconies have picture windows or portholes. Housekeeping was immaculate and the bathroom was stocked with fine, fluffy towels.

I was impressed—very impressed. And, I'd seen nothing yet.

As the September sun splashed mango wine across the western horizon, an eclectic collection of guests gathered at the outdoor cafe for the Captain's Welcome Party.

Captain Gerry outlined the diving schedule and planned itinerary for the week, which would include three dives daily, plus a night dive for those who wanted it, and unlimited diving in between, provided we followed the standard safety procedures of no-decompression diving.

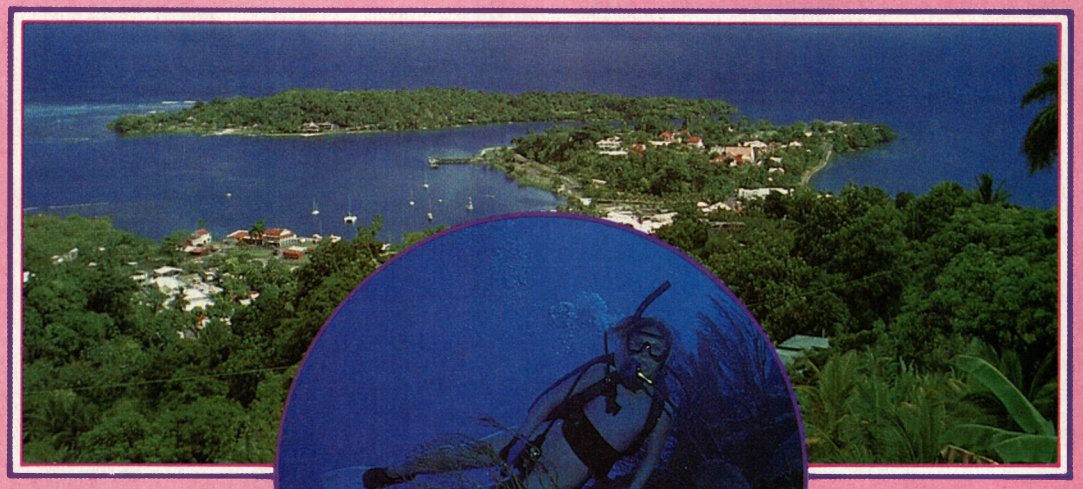
We had an itinerary planned by a master: seven islands in seven days, beginning with Norman Island, south of the Sir Francis Drake Channel, then north to Jost Van Dyke, Guano Island, Great Camanoe, Virgin Gorda, Dog Island and Salt Island. The week's grand finale was the fabled, exclusive Peter Island; we would return to Tortola on Thursday and depart on Friday. Gerry explained that the British Virgins comprise 50 small islands and cays, and we'd also be treated to stops at uninhabited, dreamy volcanic isles with trackless beaches surrounded by palm trees "like our visions of the South Pacific." Beach picnics, snorkeling trips and Crusoe-style antics would all be part of the week.

The itinerary would be flexible, he added, but he guaranteed diving every day.

(Continued on Page 92)

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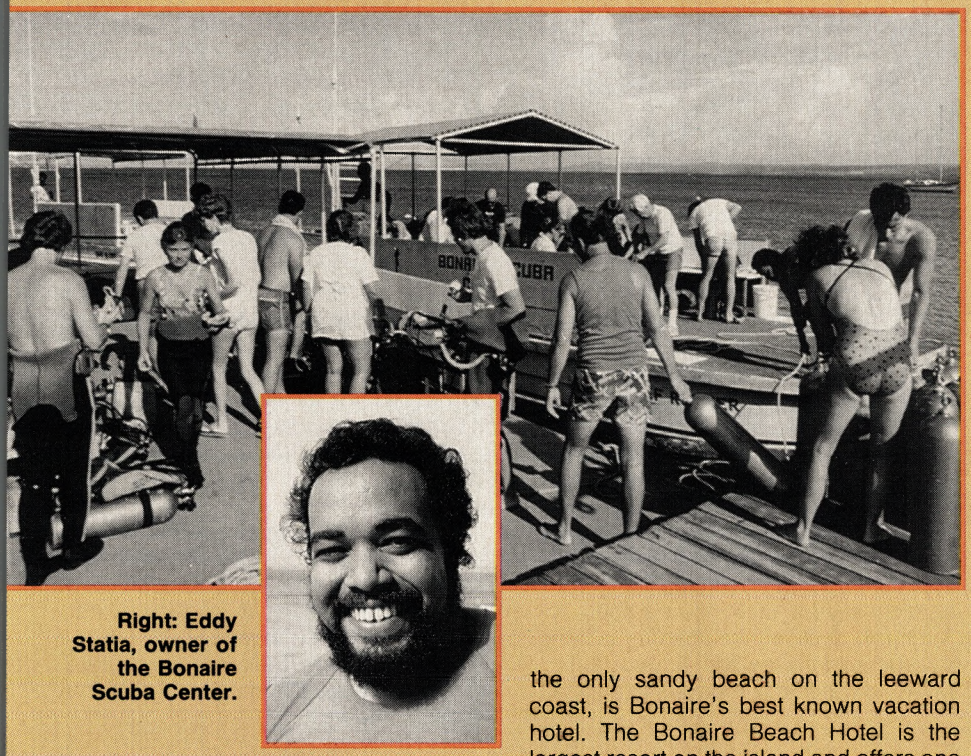
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON





The Bonaire Beach Hotel is the largest resort on the island and offers one of the best dive package bargains. Its 145 air-conditioned rooms and suites are set in 11 low rise buildings on immaculately landscaped grounds. Through Bonaire Scuba Center, divers can make beach dives on their own, make "truck" dives around the island or, on the dive boats, reach great offshore sites.

The cool breeze whispered through the open beach bar with a pleasant fragrance of tropical flowers. The overhead thatched roof was the perfect refuge from the scorching afternoon sun. The smell of freshly cut fruit was a sweet surprise and, after comfortably settling into my chair, I decided to order a frozen daquiri.



Right: Eddy Statia, owner of the Bonaire Scuba Center.

Other members of our afternoon dive began to join us for happy hour and soon the air was filled with light and lively conversation. I couldn't help overhearing a conversation from a couple divers sitting next to me. The conversation seemed more of a contest, with each one trying to outdo the other with having visited the most exotic places. When neither could agree with the other, the discussion soon turned to Bonaire. Not so surprisingly, both agreed that Bonaire was an all time favorite dive destination and both had been here several times. Consistently calm water, no currents, magnificent reef structure and abundant marine life—I couldn't have agreed with them more!

The boomerang shaped island and its tiny sister, Klein Bonaire, are part of the Netherlands Antilles. Bonaire's arid and cactus covered landscape varies greatly from tip to tip. Measuring 24 miles long and three to seven miles wide, Bonaire is less than 50 miles from Venezuela. The northern end of the island is rugged and the terrain hilly. Mount Brandaris is the highest point on the island, rising 784 feet above sea level. Most of the northern island forms part of the Washington/Slagbaai National Park.

To the south, past the main town of Kralendijk, the island slopes to a flat plain of marshy ponds and mangrove forests. Salt is still commercially reclaimed from the sea, evidenced by the large salt drying beds that have been in use for centuries. Pink flamingos wade in the shallow ponds near the road, while wild goats seem to wander everywhere.

Nestled in the crook of the island, on the only sandy beach on the leeward coast, is Bonaire's best known vacation hotel. The Bonaire Beach Hotel is the largest resort on the island and offers one of the best dive package bargains.

Newly renovated, the 145 air-conditioned rooms and suites in 11 low rise buildings are spread across an immaculately landscaped 12 acres of outstanding waterfront property. Each room features two double beds, full bath and shower facilities, telephone and laundry services. The rooms vary from standard to deluxe with several suites available for families or for those couples vacationing together. There is a mini-golf course in the center courtyard and lighted tennis courts are adjacent to the hotel.

The hotel features two restaurants, a beach bar and cocktail lounge. A freshwater pool and a weekly program allow you to be as active or inactive as you prefer. The hotel is perfect for large dive clubs or organizations that require conference and banquet facilities. A jewelry store and small boutique on the premises sell beach and island attire and, nearby, horseback riding, car or scooter rentals are available. The town of Kralendijk is only five minutes away and it is often fun to rent a car and tour the island.

Along the beach, lounge chairs and beach towels are free to guests. A full watersports program has been developed that includes fishing trips, sailing excursions, beachcombing, waterskiing and windsurfing. Adjacent to the Beach Bar is one of Bonaire's most popular and professional dive services, the Bonaire Scuba Center. Owned and operated by Al Catalfumo and Eddy Statia, it is a relaxed, unregimented dive facility. Eddy is operations manager and can always be found in the shop, while Al, the director of marketing, is in New Jersey where he operates the vacation booking agency.

Bonaire Scuba Center's three fast dive boats—the 18 passenger *Reef Runner*, the 22 passenger *Bonaire Diver* and the 12 passenger *Dive Buddy*—leave the dock promptly at 8:45 am and 1:45 pm. The odd time schedule guarantees your boat will reach the best locations earlier than those of other dive operators. A code of ethics among the Bonaire operators allows only one dive boat on any one site. During peak times, Bonaire Scuba Center's boats make other scheduled trips at 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Night dives are scheduled regularly.

A dive truck is available to groups for travel to distant dive sites around the island or, if you prefer, you can take a scuba tank and beach dive anywhere on the island. Some of the very best beach diving is found right outside the hotel.

Just minutes away you will experience the beauty of Bonaire's underwater marine park. Twenty yards from the beach, the reef drops off to more than 100 feet. Here you will see an incredible garden of eels, live soft and hard corals and a variety of other marine life. Purple tube sponges and golden seafans sway in waters that average 80°F throughout the year. Of the 44 marked and named dive sites around Bonaire, all are within 15-20 minutes by boat from the hotel.

Each new visitor to the scuba center is quickly checked in and assigned a number corresponding to a tank number. The tank is yours for the rest of the week. A convenient dive schedule displaying the day's dive, dive boat and captain is next to the equipment locker. Simply sign your tank number on the board for the trip or boat you prefer, then relax. Your tank will be carried to the appropriate boat for your dive, then removed and filled for the next dive.

Underwater photography plays a major role at Bonaire Scuba Center. Professional instruction is available, as is overnight E-6 film processing. You can rent almost any piece of photo equipment, from simple 110 cameras to sophisticated Nikonoses with 15mm wide angle lenses. A selection of Fuji and Kodak films is available for purchase.

ALM Airlines has daily direct flights to Bonaire from Miami with convenient connections from other gateway cities. For more information on the Bonaire Beach Hotel, contact International Travel and Resorts, Inc., 25 West 39th Street, New York, NY 10018 or call, toll free, (800) 223-9815; in New York call (212) 840-6636. For dive related services contact Bonaire Scuba Center, P.O. Box 775, Morgan, NJ 08879 or call, toll free, (800) 526-2370; in New Jersey call (201) 566-8866.

AQUANAUT EXPLORER

(Continued from Page 88)

If the weather changed, so would our course, to find a lee and virgin reefs only seen by those on a live-aboard or ship that could outwit the weather. Hundreds of still unexplored dive sites existed in the waters around this group of islands.

Over dinner, served by waiters in the outdoor restaurant on the lower deck, Gerry joined our table and enjoyed our reaction to being served generous portions—on china, with French crystal for water or wine—in a relaxed, naturally air-conditioned setting that is surprisingly mosquito-free.

After dinner, Gerry introduced the staff and crew of 12, which includes three PADI/NAUI instructors. They explained the easygoing style of diving, while emphasizing the ship's policy of extremely safety-conscious bottom time. Regardless of whether we were using decompression meters or watches and depth gauges, everyone was expected to hang at 10 feet for five minutes after a dive, unless it was very shallow. Since the ship went into operation in January, not one day of diving has been missed and not one accident has occurred—the crew plans to maintain that record.

For the convenience of experienced divers, novices would be taken as a separate group and photographers would also be segregated, so they could enjoy their dive and not be disturbed. Everyone applauded this thoughtful approach.

The "easygoing style" means all you have to do is carry your gear from the storage area to the tenders. These are hydraulically lowered when the ship anchors and divers just walk on board. Dive sites lie within five to ten minutes from the ship. Scuba tanks, of course, are already on board.

A large dry area is provided for underwater still and video photographers to change film, service their equipment and avoid those in wet gear. A complete photo lab with E-6 processing, film, rental camera equipment and accessories completes photographers' needs. The ship has 110 volt 60 cycle electricity so strobes and lights can be charged.

For nondivers, snorkeling lessons are available as part of the package price, along with windsurfing, and the ship carries its own sailboards. From the beginning, however, the staff encourages anyone intrigued by scuba to take a resort course (an additional $35) or even a full certification course ($50). Here, the ocean is your classroom and it's an exciting alternative to learning in a pool.

I almost declined the first day's diving: My stateroom was too comfortable. I awoke to watch dawn polishing the magnificent coast of Norman Island, an uninhabited gem south of the Sir Francis Drake Channel, set in a flat tourmaline Caribbean. This idyllic scene was my private mural in the quiet of early morning. I could have sat like an old lizard on my balcony all day, sipping drinks and soaking in the remoteness of this splendid scene. Every morning that week would be like this, only with a different view.

During our seven days, the thrill of diving on virgin sites off islands seldom visited by man was as intoxicating as the topside view of those volcanic outcroppings and their unbelievable beaches and silent green hills. The dramatic rock formations, such as the Baths at Virgin Gorda, the whimsical Indian Head near Norman Island and the lizard profile of Guano Island were another curiosity.

The nondivers on our cruise agreed that this voyage was as exciting for them as it was for those of us who encountered such exotic scenes as schools of squid off Great Dog Island and giant black coral trees near the wreck of the *Fearless*, Cousteau's *Calypso*'s sister ship, sunk last year as a dive site.

The variety of diving in the BVI is ideal for both novice and experienced divers. There is an abundance of marine life and dramatic panoramas in shallow water and I was surprised at the huge fish population here. Gerry explained why: There are no commercial fisheries in the BVI

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and combined with their location between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, where currents carry fresh nutrients through the Sir Francis Drake Channel, the BVI provide a healthy and enticing marine environment for a varied cast of creatures.

There are no walls per se in this underwater Disneyworld, but there are spectacular shallow caves and crevices—some reported to be among the longest underwater tunnels in the Caribbean. One exceptional site is Treasure Caves, off Norman Island, where five dive sites within five minutes of each other provide photographers with shots of schools of silversides, cave walls decorated with macro critters and colorful sponges, and delicate corals.

Off Salt Island, the legendary *Rhone*, where sequences of *The Deep* were filmed, is the most famous site in the BVI. But, there are also wrecks reported in these waters that have yet to be discovered; these waters are far better known by yachtsmen and sailors than by divers.

Hours spent not diving included: cookouts on isolated beaches; walks through the periphery of uninhabited cays; snorkeling and enjoying hours Crusoe-style without any other boats in sight. You don't have to dive to enjoy this cruise.

The ship's well stocked bar, with its happy hour prices, became a popular spot for evening story swapping. There are only a few scheduled activities for guests: the Sunday night wild hat party and Wednesday's Captain's Dinner, followed by a guest "Gong Show." Both proved the wit of my particular group.

The *Aquanaut Explorer*'s large video room allowed us to view not only the group's "home movies" (ranging from aspiring Cousteau silent documentaries to Saturday Night Live reef parodies) but also a library of VHS movies. Whoever slipped *The Poseidon Adventure* in there had my kind of sense of humor.

By the time we pulled into Road Town on Thursday night, there was a hint of mutiny on board. We had several newlywets among us—who had taken resort courses—and three who had completed full certification courses. Champagne toasts celebrated their entry into the aquatic squad aboard the *Aquanaut Explorer*. They were ready to stay on for another week.

"This has been paradise in paradise. I'm spoiled now—the personal attention, both on board and in the water, is unlike anything I've experienced before," said Pam, an advertising executive from Los Angeles, California. Her comment was echoed by other group members.

I was ready to stowaway for the same reasons. But, one thing bothered me: the service in my stateroom. All week, it seemed that my room was tidied and towels replaced, almost immediately after I left it. It was as if some invisible steward were living in my closet.

I've had service like that before: in the Hotel Intercontinental in London and the Regent in Sydney. Neither had anything to do with diving. The *Aquanaut Explorer* is definitely trying to define "luxury" in new terms in diving.

The price, $599 per person ($699 for deluxe stateroom) for the week, including all diving and meals, too, was ridiculously low. By the end of the week, almost all proclaimed the *Aquanaut* experience as the best diving (and for some, nondiving or new diving) vacation they'd had, and would pay twice that amount to return.

For information and reservations contact Aquanaut Cruise Line, 241 E. Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334. Call toll free in the U.S. (800) 327-8223; in Florida outside Broward county, (800) 432-8894; in Broward, (305) 491-0333.



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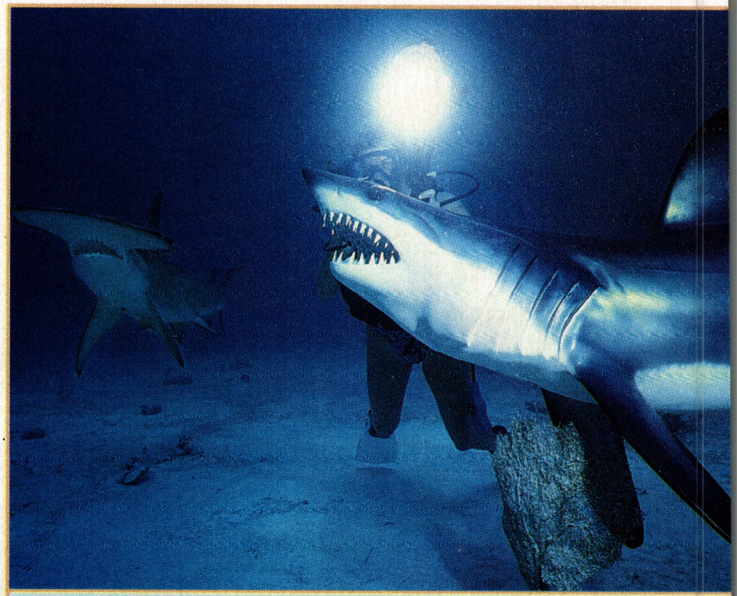
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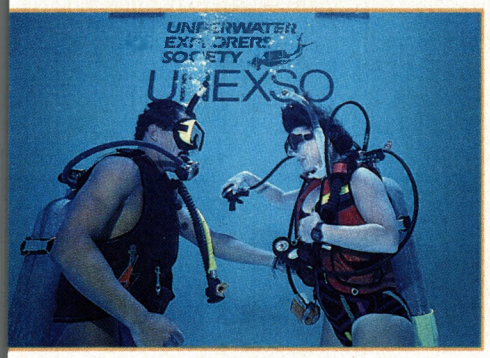
UNEXSO





The Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO), in Freeport on Grand Bahama, is 22 years old this year. The continuing success of this operation is partly owing to the exceptional diving found off the island, but is also a result of UNEXSO's policies of innovation. The Holiday Inn (top) offers dive/lodging packages with UNEXSO.







AN U/W CARNIVAL OF UNIQUE ADVENTURES

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK





Two exciting new activities are Shark Shot Reef and The Dolphin Experience. Shark Shot features two fiberglass sharks, a hammerhead and a mako, tethered to the seafloor. These make interesting photo props for visiting divers. The Dolphin Experience offers divers the chance to cavort with live dolphins. At present this occurs in a confined environment but will ultimately be conducted in open water. Other underwater attractions include the deep training tank and shipwrecks.

The Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) in Freeport, Grand Bahama is 22 years old this year. In a sport as young as scuba diving, this makes UNEXSO one of our venerated elders. Today's dive/travel market has become increasingly competitive, yet UNEXSO continues to flourish as one of the most successful dive operations in the world despite the competition. This is partly owing to the exceptional underwater natural resource off Grand Bahama, but also owing to UNEXSO's policies of innovation. Two exciting innovations recently instituted by the society are Shark Shot Reef® and The Dolphin Experience®:

In just 45 feet of water, on a medium depth reef of scattered high profile coral heads, loom the menacing silhouettes of two of the sea's most feared predators. You can almost hear the *Jaws* theme as you descend upon a massive hammerhead and sleek mako shark, but here the menace is illusory; these sharks are made of fiberglass. Anchored to the seafloor with monofilament line, they provide photo props for UNEXSO divers. Shark Shot is intended as a light-hearted, fun underwater set where photographers can place their models close to these sharks, perhaps adding a little comic relief to a slide show. The process of placing two fiberglass sharks underwater may be funny in retrospect, but I suspect it was initially rather frustrating for UNEXSO.

Once the concept was developed, the sharks had to be manufactured. Of course, the standard fiberglass shark made by a taxidermist would not work. Instead, a special design was developed with internal flotation chambers, concealed mounting hardware and special corrosion-resistant paint. The hammerhead is nine feet long, the mako is seven feet, four inches. They are tethered to the seafloor close together.

After months of design effort, the sharks were shipped to Freeport only to have the mako implode the first time in the water because air could not be vented properly from its internal chambers. The mako was shipped back to the United States to be rebuilt and improved. Once again in Bahamanian waters, it was found that the shark flooded properly but its center of gravity was such that it floated nose down like a dolphin rooting for sea cucumbers! On the third try (and thousands of dollars later) the sharks of Shark Shot Reef finally assumed their proper underwater postures.

I watched a group of divers work these artificial sharks one afternoon and it was interesting to see how the photographers set up their models. In some cases there was an arm or neck in the mouth, lots of knives were raised in mock defense and, in one case, there was a shapely buttock being bitten in a manner reminiscent of the Florida "alligator-attack" postcards.





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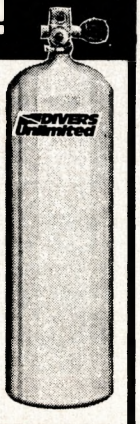
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UNEXSO

The photographers saw it as a gag shot and had fun with it, which is exactly what UNEXSO had in mind in developing the Shark Shot concept.

The Dolphin Experience is a more ambitious project. Ultimately, UNEXSO divers will be able to swim with live Atlantic bottlenose dolphins in the open ocean. At present the six dolphins are being trained in a special ocean pen adjacent to the dive boat docks, but the magic potential of being able to predictably swim with dolphins in crystalline Bahamas water is nearly at hand. Even now it is possible to swim with the dolphins or even be involved in the training program as an assistant for the day.

I swam with the dolphins one afternoon and found them to be very special animals. Of course they were intelligent, playful and curious, as I've found dolphins everywhere to be. They were very gentle as well, in contrast to some of the more boisterous and aggressive dolphins I have been in the water with. When the day comes that these animals are ready to swim with divers in the open ocean, I want to be there. Of all of the creatures of the sea, none inspires more wonder and respect than the dolphin. To view them at close range in their natural environment is an incredible opportunity.

In addition to these two new programs, UNEXSO, under the direction of managing partners John Englander and Barry Taylor, is in the midst of substantial renovation. During my most recent visit, improvements to the facility were apparent throughout. The 18 foot deep dive tank has been completely refurbished and the shallow pool will be the next project. The executive offices and computer center were being remodeled and a new underwater photo and video center had just opened. Under the direction of resident photo pro Mike Sahlen, the photo center is conveniently near the boat docks and offers daily E-6 film processing, customer light tables for slide editing, 8mm and VHS underwater video systems for rent, still camera and strobe rental and custom video production services. The underwater video programs at UNEXSO are especially popular. In fact, management is so sure its customers will be happy with their rental videos that a full money back guarantee is offered.

A new boat has also been added to the UNEXSO fleet. The *Explorer II* is a 30 foot Island Hopper powered by a Caterpillar diesel and is, of course, equipped for diver convenience with tank racks, dive platform and extended ladders, and spacious aft dive deck. The *Explorer I* is a 40 foot fiberglass V-hull; the *Biene* is a 42 foot diesel V-hull; and the *Rio Rita* is a 27 footer. All three are available for dive

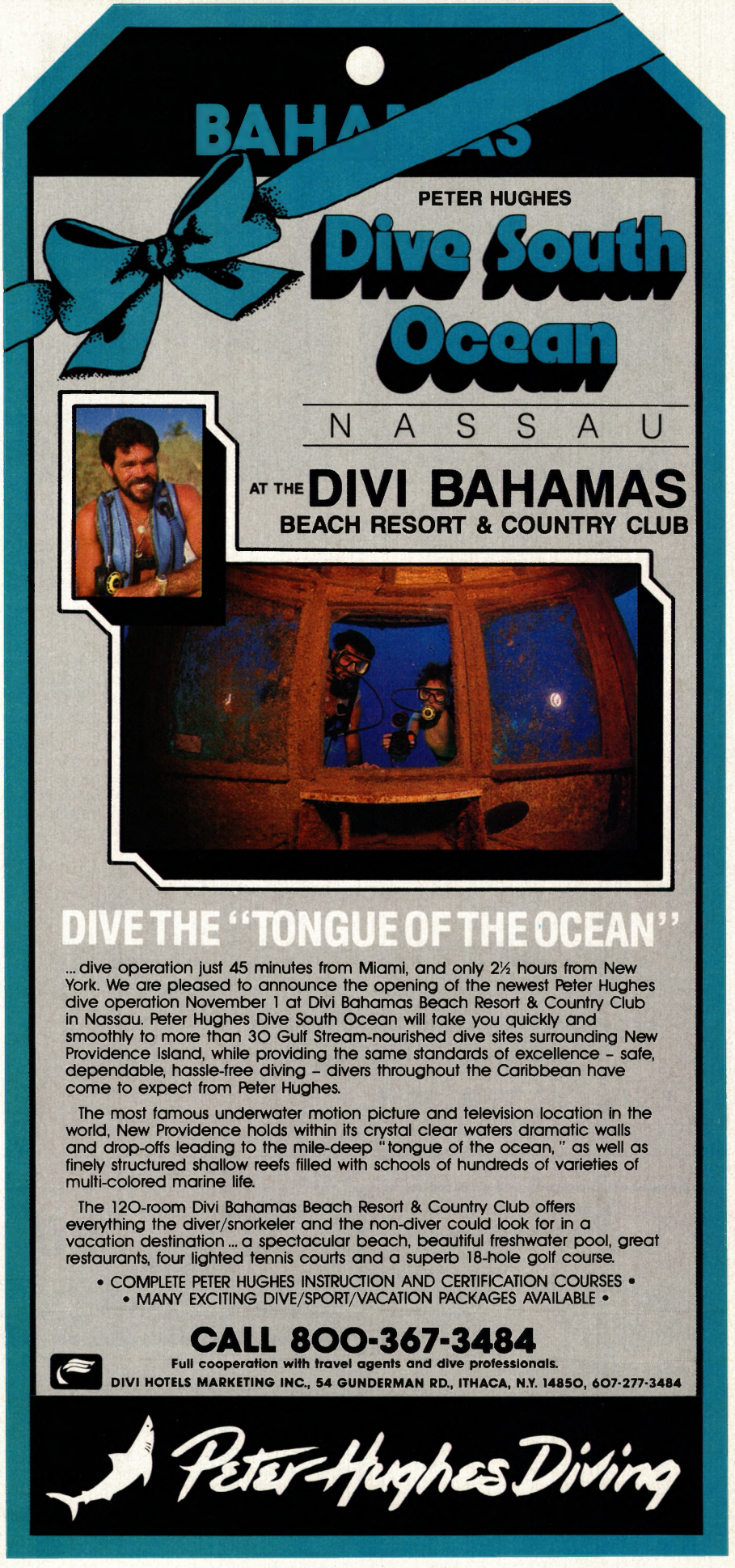
charter at the UNEXSO Freeport facility, and exceedingly well equipped for diver comfort. As discussed in the February 1987 SKIN DIVER article, UNEXSO also offers diving services at the Jack Tar Village at the West End of Grand Bahama. The 30 foot diesel powered dive boat *Easy Diver*, moored at that facility, is yet another component of the impressive UNEXSO dive fleet.

UNEXSO is not alone in its efforts to improve services for visiting divers. The Holiday Inn nearby has offered dive/lodging packages with UNEXSO for several years and has just embarked on an ambitious $15 million facelift to take place over the next two years. I found my room to be spacious, comfortable and tastefully decorated. However, all 505 air-conditioned rooms will soon be redone along with the lobby, shopping arcade, restaurants and nightclubs.

Located on one of Freeport's finest white sand beaches, the Holiday Inn is but a short walk from the UNEXSO complex. There are three restaurants on the premises, along with three lounges, tennis courts, a freshwater swimming pool, sauna and health studio, game room, beauty salon and gift stores. There are numerous activities available to the Holiday Inn guests both day and night. During the day the beach and poolside are the centers of activity with parasailing, snorkeling, waterskiing and sportfishing providing exciting complements to the more sedentary sunbathing pursuits. Gourmet dining is available at the Troubadour restaurant and special outdoor poolside buffets feature international cuisine and live entertainment such as a steel band, fire dancers, magic show or a junkanoo parade. The Lucayan Beach Hotel, across the street from UNEXSO, features a complete and opulent 20,000 square foot casino and is within a five minute walk of the Holiday Inn.

With the Holiday Inn/UNEXSO dive package, all the amenities of a first class resort hotel are combined with one of the Bahamas' premier dive services. The result is additional convenience as well as significant price incentives as compared with booking both of these vacation elements separately.

Freeport, Grand Bahama is just 60 miles to the east of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and accessible by numerous daily flights, as well as by cruise ship or a new commuter boat service. Because of the island's proximity to the warm, clear waters of the Gulf Stream, water clarity is often exceptional. The coral reef off Freeport features a colorful and alive shallow reef; high profile corals and good fish populations along the mid-reef in 30 to 60 feet of water; and a deep reef with better pelagic life and some very unique residents in 60 to 90 feet of water. In fact, it is the quality of the coral reef and clarity of water that brought the television series Sea Hunt to Freeport for the filming of al-



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most all of the underwater segments.

Freeport also offers a couple of fascinating shipwrecks, most notably *Theo*'s Wreck, a 230 foot steel freighter intentionally sunk as a diver attraction. She lies on her port side in 100 feet of water near the edge of a drop-off. In just the past year *Theo*'s Wreck has gained colorful sponge, coral and gorgonian incrustation and the fish life has increased dramatically as well. Now there is a large school of resident goatfish and horse-eye jacks, as well as glass minnows seasonally. Barracudas frequent the wreck and turtles and eagle rays pass by regularly.

The wreck of the *Jose* is not as grand in scale as is *Theo*'s, but in the short time this tugboat has been on the bottom in 50 feet of water, she has attracted thousands of baitfish, and jacks, snappers and groupers have become the attendant predators. Since the *Jose* is sunk amid a beautiful and interesting coral reef, the dive need not be dedicated exclusively to wreck exploration. For cave and cavern enthusiasts, one of the world's most beautiful U/W systems—Ben's Cave—is scheduled to reopen on a limited basis this fall. Long closed to divers by the Bahamas National Trust in order to protect the delicate structures, Ben's Cave will be open for guided dives with groups of four people permitted twice a week.

Given the quality of the lodging at the Holiday Inn, the fine dining available in Freeport, the excellent wreck and reef diving accessible from Freeport and West End, the casinos and night life, beautiful beaches, and inexpensive and frequent air access to the island, Grand Bahama has naturally developed as a warm weather vacation mecca. Now Shark Shot Reef and The Dolphin Experience create even more reasons for traveling divers to place UNEXSO and the Holiday Inn on their itinerary. For further information or reservations contact UNEXSO at (800) 992-DIVE or, in Florida, (305) 761-7679. Mail inquiries may be directed to P.O. Box F 2433, Freeport, Grand Bahama. In the Bahamas phone (809) 373-1244.

GILCHRIST EXHIBITION

An exhibition of underwater photographs by David Gilchrist will be held at Rodman Hall Arts Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario February 5-23. The collection of color prints, entitled Freshwater, attempts to portray biological, geological and historical elements of the underwater world. Subjects are recorded from rivers, a quarry, lakes and freshwater springs. The majority of photographs were taken in Ontario and provide a unique view of the freshwater world.

WW II WRECK EXPEDITIONS

During WW II, Daytona Beach, Florida was a center of military activity, with four airbases and one seaplane base. Many aircraft and targets were lost at sea during training missions. Also, German U-boats took a heavy toll on ships in this area, sending three large freighters and one destroyer escort to the bottom.

Bottom Time Adventures makes this wreck diving accessible. Open only to advanced divers, these trips will include diving on fully armed Corsair aircraft, Liberty ships, two wrecks from the Spanish American war, a giant blue hole and beautiful reefs. Trip dates are April 16-18, April 24-30, May 1-4 and May 7-8.

For information contact Bottom Time Adventures, Inc., P.O. Box 11919, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-1919. In Florida telephone (305) 561-0111. Outside Florida call (800) 345-DIVE.

OCEAN EXPO PHOTO CONTEST

Entries are being sought for the International Marine Photo Contest, to be held in conjunction with Ocean Expo '88. This scuba diving and ocean sports show will be held February 19-21 in Miami, Florida. Entry deadline for the contest is January 10, 1988.

The contest has expanded this year and includes four categories in the underwater division: macro, close-up, wide angle, video and above water marine. Prizes, plaques, certificates and ribbons will be awarded for best of show, first, second and third place winners and "judged superior."

The contest is open to amateur photographers. Rules and entry forms are now available. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (or four International Postal Coupons) to: Ocean Expo Productions, 1141 NE 142nd Street, North Miami, Florida 33161.

TROPIC DIVE/SAIL WRECK TRIPS

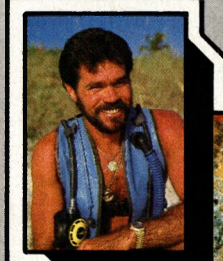
Tropic Dive/Sail has teamed up with the Biscayne Marriott in downtown Miami to offer wreck diving trips. Packages include one night's stay at the Biscayne Marriott, two dives on Miami wrecks (including weightbelt, tanks, backpacks and pick-up at the hotel).

The *Tropic Diver*, a new 28 foot Delta, can accommodate 15 divers and has a V-8 Caterpillar diesel that will speedily get you to the reefs or wrecks. Wrecks include 16 freighters, fishing boats, three oilrig sections, three barges, seven fishing boats, one tug, a 175 foot yacht, 20 concrete mixer drums and an intact sub.

For more information contact: Tropic Dive and Sail, 8346 NW South River Dr. #G, Medley, FL 33166; (305) 888-3002.

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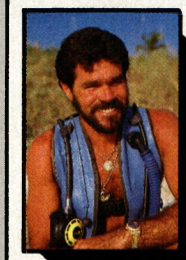
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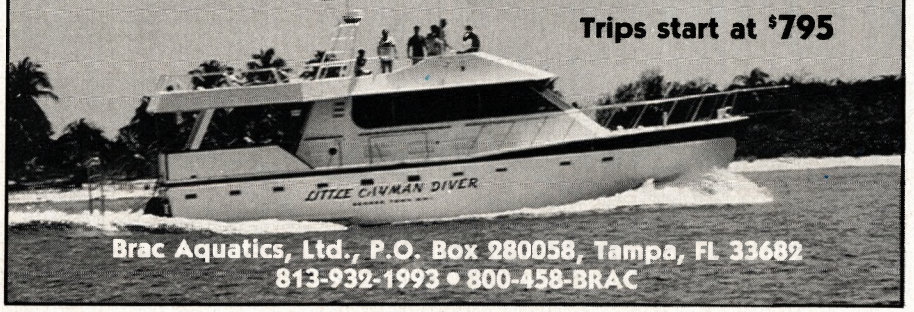
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LIVE-ABOARDS

(Continued from Page 86)

merhead sharks and manta rays. Others prefer to search for new dive sites not frequented by the 20 passenger boats in the area. *Elias Mann*'s clients, in short, have plenty of say in how their vacation is operated to fulfill their wishes.

In the Red Sea, the wonderful *Colona II* is a perfect example of the personalized dive cruiser. With only four to six passengers aboard, Freddy and Harriet welcome guests as instant family, with delicious food, a homey atmosphere and your own private access to the Red Sea's greatest dive sites.

Freddy and Harriet also operate a second vessel, *Colona IV*, which can welcome ten more divers. The two boats often run tandem for groups of up to 16 or to different dive sites if chartered separately. It would take weeks to dive the many sites that lie within 30 miles of Sharm-el-Sheikh. I have spent up to two weeks diving aboard *Colona II*; it made me feel as if my group and I were the only divers in the entire Red Sea.

See & Sea can also provide your Cairo or Jerusalem sightseeing or even a floating hotel cruise up the Nile; your own itinerary to make your dream diving vacation uniquely what you want.

In Palau, the already famous *Sun Tamarin* has just completed a spectacular opening season. Groups of five to six divers get unlimited access to Palau's most sensational dive sites with air-conditioned comfort and fine food—all that plus the joy of watching shore-based boats not arrive at dive areas until 10:00 am and have to leave for town before 3:00 pm. Aboard *Sun Tamarin*, you'll watch other divers retreat, leaving you with more access to the best sites. This program offers one of the world's clearest contrasts between good hotel-based services and superior live-aboards. No matter how well organized a hotel-based dive service is, the travel time alone between hotel and dive sites miles away will favor any live-aboard. A world-class live-aboard will capitalize on this to offer an unbeatable choice.

In the sun-drenched islands of the French Caribbean, the *Cadaques* had offered divers the complex joys of diving intermixed with the glory of full sail for five years. The 60 foot teak and mahogony ship is loved by the groups that charter her. Now under new ownership, *Cadaques* still offers divers wonders ranging from handfeeding fish to "snow-capped" sponges to mysterious hotwater volcanic vents amid the reef corals—all this with French food, wine and style. This is a gem in our own backyard.

For romance and adventure in the exotic Far East, imagine four to six of you diving off Thailand in the remote Similan

Islands. Fish and coral species totally new to you throng the crowded reefs; there are no other divers, just the occasional open canoe of local fishermen far from sight of land. The beaches are like white talcum powder and almost untouched by the foot of man. This is truly a paradise for a small group of divers, who can combine these pristine islands with the golden glories of Bangkok's temples in one glorious adventure. The *Andaman Explorer* is your Thai dive boat. The crew might have stepped out of the pages of Conrad or Melville; seafaring men far from their homelands, conquering the untouched foreign sea. You could be Ishmael!

In the Philippines, three to four hardy divers can enjoy some of the richest close-up photography in the world aboard the 46 foot *Maverick*. Specializing in the reefs from Batangas to Apo to Busuanga, this personalized cruise will maximize your access to such spectaculars as The Cathedrals, Cubebra and Sombrero Island. Bring lots of film!

The last boat in my brief survey of personalized reef-diving cruisers is one of the originals, Eric Dowdall's *Sta Reta* in Fiji. For nearly a decade See & Sea has sent groups of three to five divers to visit with Eric and his wife Keresi. I've seen customers in tears when their cruise was finally over, a testament to these hosts and to the personalized diving format.

I'll also mention two other personalized adventures that have grabbed the public imagination as have few others in the history of diving adventure. First is the San Diego shark cage adventure, in which 12 or more blue sharks cavort within two feet of your camera lens. This is not a liveaboard program, but it is so personal and thrilling that, for a certain type of diver, it may be the most exciting way ever devised to spend two days. Recently, I watched from the cage as our guides, Marty Snyderman and Bob Cranston, wore stainless steel mesh suits to handfeed the sharks. In very clear water this is a two-day photo spectacular for those who have always wondered about the shark cage experience.

To finish this survey of "personalized" dive vacations, I have to mention the ultimate adventure for up to six divers: The great white shark expedition. Divers who have shared this adventure are members of one of the most exclusive clubs in the world. Only six divers per trip get to look into the eyes of the ocean's greatest predator. Our dive cruiser anchors off rocky islands in the trackless wastes of ocean between South Australia and Antarctica. Since 1976 this early February adventure has been the adrenaline high of my year.

The common thread among all of these incredible experiences is that only three to six persons make up a complete departure. If you book with See & Sea as an

(Continued on Page 108)

CARIBBEAN PACKAGES

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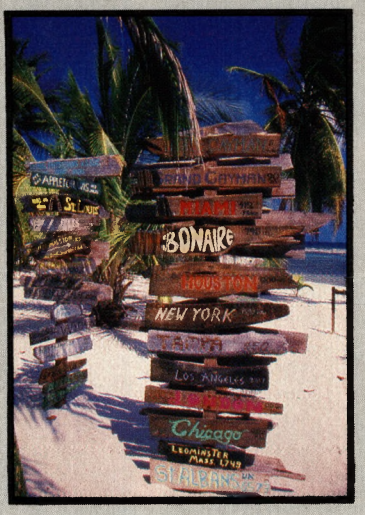
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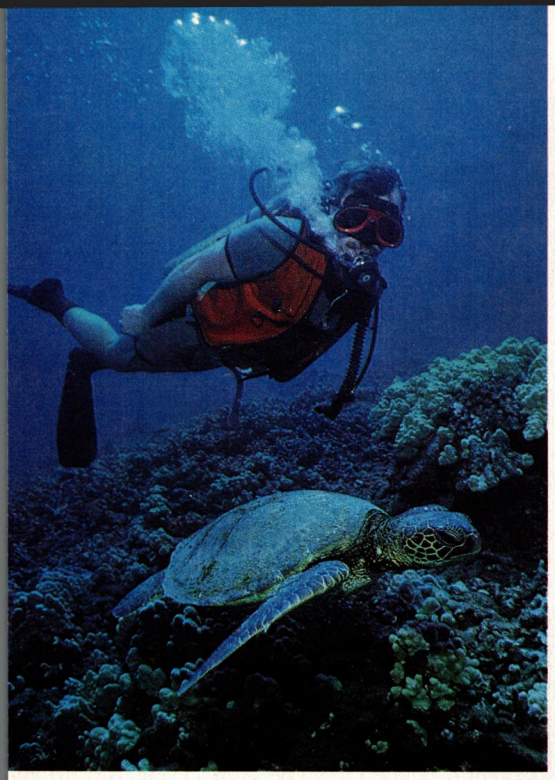
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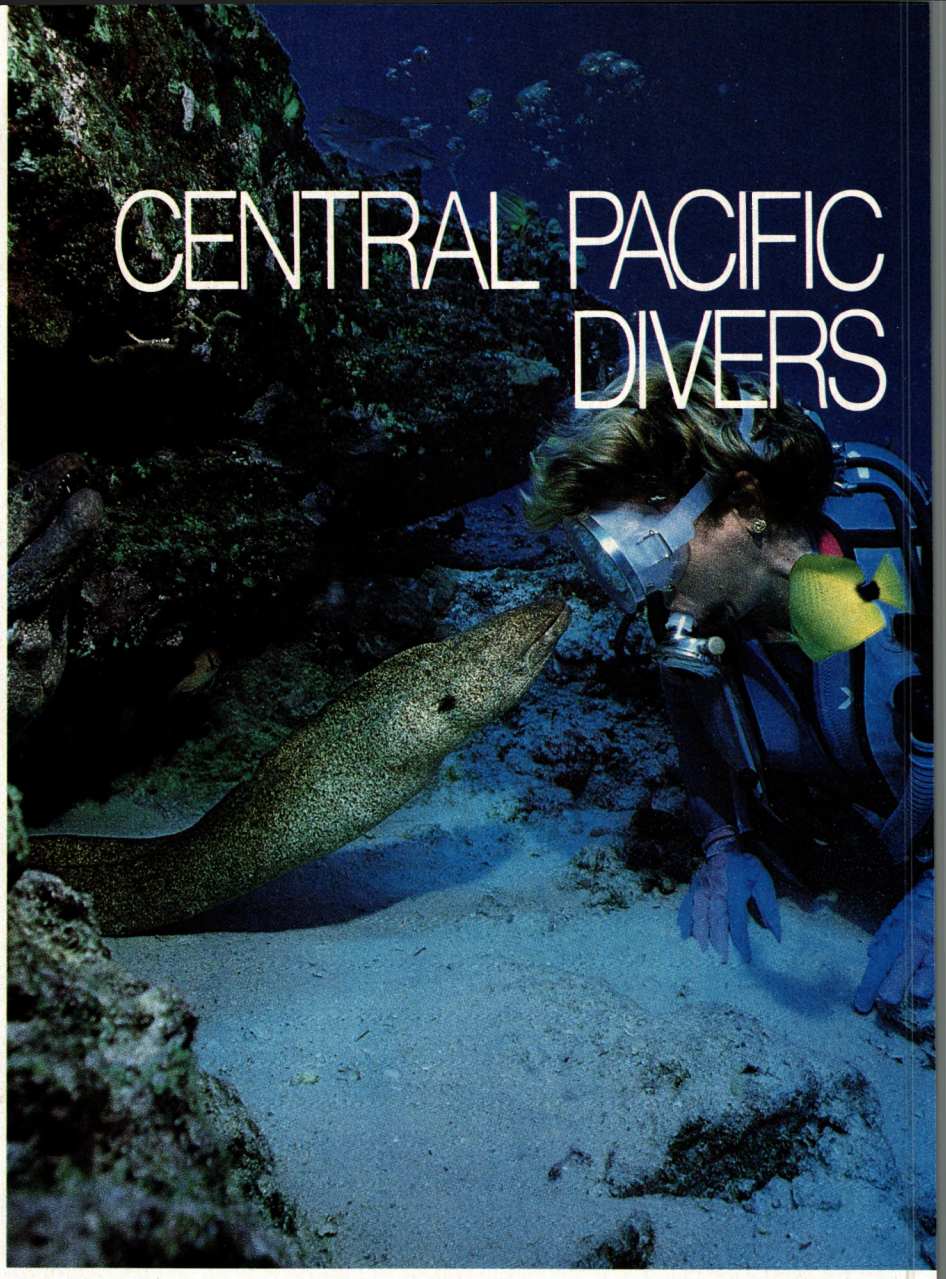
Peter Hughes Diving

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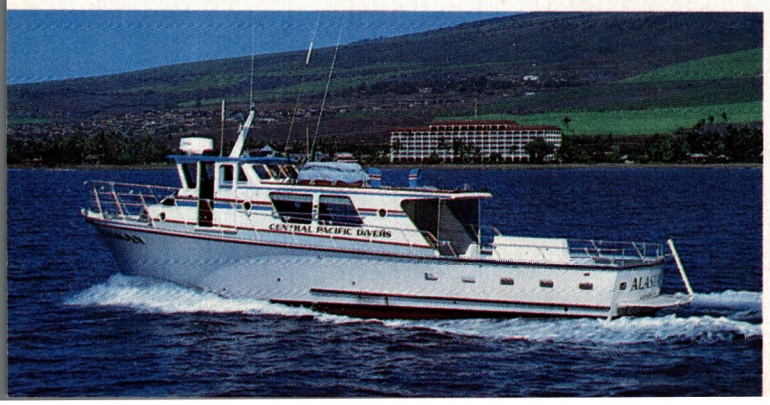


CENTRAL PACIFIC DIVERS











Diving Hawaiian style offers opportunities to swim with turtles and feed moray eels. Maui visitors can now stay at the brand new Plantation Inn and dive with Central Pacific Divers. The Oriental Room features a four poster bed. The 50 foot Delta, *Alaskan*, has just recently been added to CPD's dive boat fleet. Right: Guests at Gerard's restaurant can sample award winning cuisine either inside or out.

PLANTATION INN

MAUI'S OLDEST DIVING OPERATION: NEWEST DIVING RESORT

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROD CANHAM

Central Pacific Divers, on Maui, has long had an excellent reputation of service oriented charters on spacious and comfortable dive boats. CPD's adaptability to market demands and its growth has made it one of the largest and most diversified operations in the Hawaiian Islands. Owners Pete and Jane Cambouris have had a 15 year dream of providing dive travelers a place to stay that would be a departure from the normal dive resort. In 1985 they went into partnership with Jim and Lena Patterson and the dream became a reality. Under a separate corporate structure, with a group of mainland investors, the Plantation Inn opened September 20 to a full house.

The inn is the culmination of efforts by Jim Patterson, whose determination, vision and drive resulted in raising the $2 million required to build the two story divers' resort. "The Plantation Inn is a new concept in dive resorts," says Patterson. "We haven't overlooked any details, making this not just a place to stay but an experience." He adds, "It's as if someone, very wealthy, had come to Hawaii in 1890 and built a mansion. This is what it would have looked like. The Plantation is absolutely one of a kind."



From the first, visitors are immediately impressed with the inn's turn of the century ambiance. The grounds are spread over 17,500 square feet, landscaped with lush tropical foliage and include a 12 foot deep tiled pool, hottub, three bedroom cottage and parking. The inn's spacious veranda is accented with hanging plants, cushioned wicker furniture and an antique swing replica. The 1890s are reflected in the antiques and period detail.

All of the rooms have queen sized beds (most are brass), period wallpaper and oakstrip flooring. The private baths have Victorian pedestal sinks, some have chain pull toilets and are accented with brass and porcelain fixtures.

The rooms tastefully blend the old with the new, paying attention to luxury, quality and comfort. All have central air-conditioning and remote controlled ceiling fans, direct dial telephones, refrigerators, and color televisions with cable and remote control. The inn has VCRs and a selection of movies guests can use free.

The second floor Oriental Room has a four poster canopy bed. It shares the large front lanai with the adjacent two roomed Whaling Suite, which has a front room with a couch, easy chair and desk. The bedroom has a four poster bed, refrigerator and is separated from the front by a stained glass divider. Each room has individual air-conditioning, ceiling fans and private bath entrances.

One of the inn's major coups was getting Gerard's Restaurant as its first occupant. Rated as one of Hawaii's ten best, Gerard's award winning cuisine and ambiance have earned it international recognition. The restaurant can seat up to 76 patrons outside on the veranda and patio or inside the hotel. Guests are provided breakfast with their rooms and may purchase a dinner plan at Gerard's at very favorable prices.

The exquisite accommodations and cuisine may appear to price most travelers out of the market, but the Plantation Inn is very competitive with West Maui's *average* room rates of $138.95 per day. The inn's seven deluxe rooms are $95 per day; the Oriental Room is $109 per day; and the Whaling Suite is $129 per day. All the rooms can accommodate singles to families of four (no children under 10 years of age).

The dinner option is $15 per person per day and appetizers are included. Car rental packages from National are available through the hotel at wholesale rates. A standard car is $14 per day or $79 per week and an automatic, with air-conditioning, is $18 per day or $99 per week.

A poolside three bedroom cottage is equipped with a full kitchen, front room and bath. It is ideal for couples with children or three couples. (Although children under 10 are not allowed in the Plantation Inn rooms, there is no age restriction for families staying in the cottage.) The daily rate is $140, not including meals.

The inn provides guests free use of beach towels and snorkeling gear. To make more space in the rooms and maintain their plush decor, outside lockers are provided for guests' dive gear. Central Pacific Divers will take customers' gear to their boats at the town harbor.

Pete Cambouris recently replaced *Odysseus* with the larger and faster 50 foot Delta, *Alaskan*. Its spacious cabin and deck area can comfortably transport 16 divers on the interisland charters to Molokini Crater or Lanai. The 43 foot *Zephyrus* handles 14 divers easily, providing CPD a formidable diver fleet.

Service and safety continue to be the keystone to running CPD's charters. Customers are treated to a continental breakfast when checking in aboard the boats and briefed on the day's activities. After getting underway, they are interviewed for background and buddy information. A predive brief is given, the staff helps customers into their gear and changes all of the equipment over to fresh tanks between dives. Central Pacific Diver's staff runs guided U/W tours to point out familiar marine residents and help divers meet the critters one-on-one. Customers wishing to dive at their own pace with their buddies may do so. CPD makes an effort to not repeat dive sites for return guests.

A freshwater shower and rinse bucket are available after the dives. Both the two and three tank customers are provided a buffet style lunch after the second dive; cold beverages are provided after the last dive.

Maui's waters are exceptionally clear,



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CPD/PLANTATION INN

warm and host to a plethora of colorful tropicals and invertebrates. The occasional but electrifying encounter with a manta ray, whale shark or other pelagic is always a possibility. In the winter, humpback whales are often sighted as they make their seasonal sojourn to the Hawaiian Islands.

Central Pacific Divers also offers night dives on Fridays and afternoon refresher and introductory dives daily.

CPD's retail shop at 780 Front Street, in the old whaling village of Lahaina, offers a large and well rounded selection of equipment, snorkeling gear, apparel and accessories. It also offers repairs on most brands of equipment.

A PADI Five Star Training Facility, CPD has a full range of courses from open water through divemaster and specialties including one, two and four day photography courses. New students can now use the 12 foot deep pool at the inn for a stress free introduction to scuba.

For years Pete and Jane Cambouris have strived to put together a staff that is enthused about diving, concerned for marine life and willing to serve customers. The longevity of their staff is one of the highest in the state. The number of return customers to Central Pacific Divers is testament to their goals. Says Pete Cambouris, "We have a first class staff, two of the best dive boats on Maui and, with the opening of the Plantation Inn, we can offer first class accommodations with an acclaimed restaurant."

Hotel and dive packages are available through the Plantation Inn and CPD. Seven nights in a deluxe room, breakfasts, two, two tank charters and one, three tank charter will cost $549, with optional room upgrades, dinner plans and car rental packages available. For group rates or other booking information call the Plantation Inn toll free at (800) 433-6815 or (808) 667-9225. You can write to the Plantation Inn at 174 Lahainaluna Road, Lahaina, Hawaii 96761.

Questions about diving or independent charters may be directed to CPD at (800) 551-6767, (808) 661-8718 or by writing Central Pacific Divers at 780 Front Street, Lahaina, Hawaii 96761.

LIVE-ABOARDS

(Continued from Page 105)

individual you'll have no more than a few other members. More important, if you and a few friends want your own adventure, this is how to have it all.

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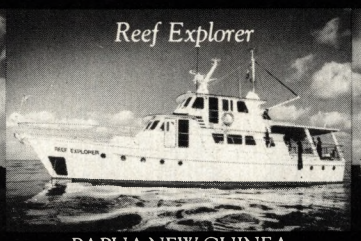
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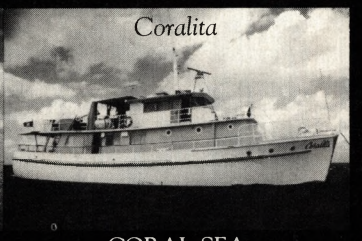
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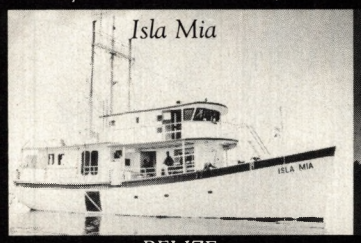
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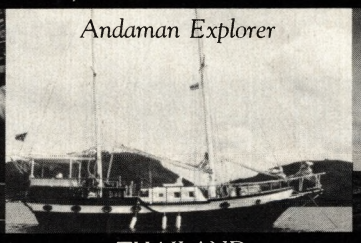
PHILIPPINES
11 days $1600



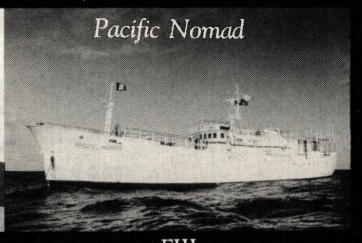
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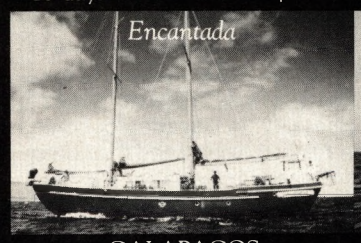
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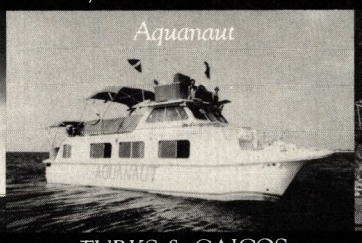
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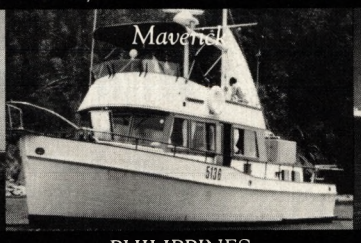
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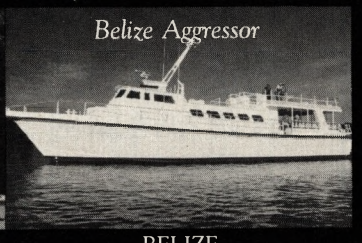
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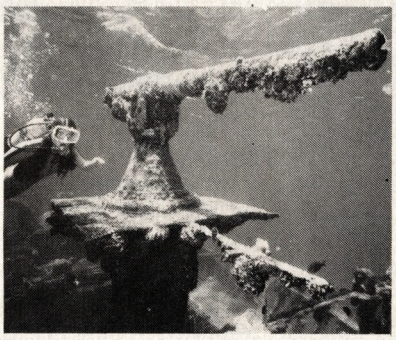
JANUARY 16-23	Belize/*Isla Mia*	Paul Humann
FEBRUARY 13-20(Video)	Belize/*Isla Mia*	Marty Snyderman
FEBRUARY 20-27	Caymans/*Aggressor II*	Marty Snyderman
MARCH 19-26	Belize/*Isla Mia*	Carl Roessler
MARCH 26-APRIL 2	Belize/*Aggressor*	Carl Roessler
APRIL 2-9 (Video)	Belize/*Isla Mia*	Mark Ramsperger
APRIL 23-30	Caymans/*Aggressor III*	Howard Hall
MAY 17-29	Philippines/*Tristar*	Marty Snyderman

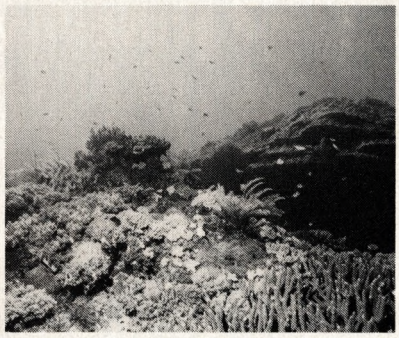
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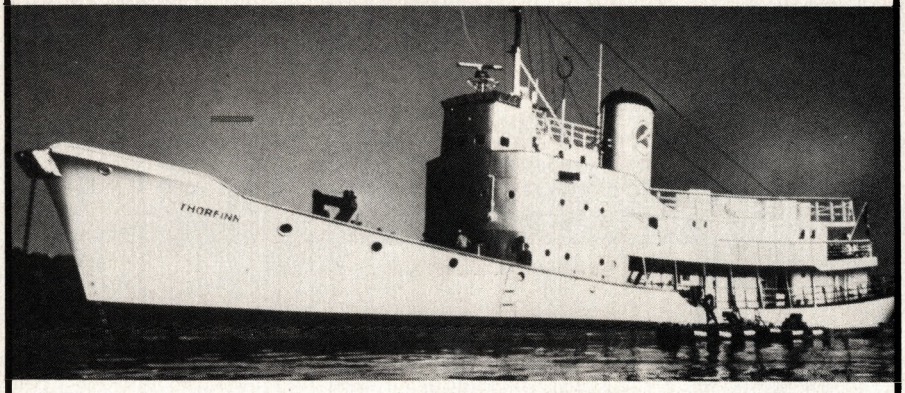
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Dolphin Deaths

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY HERB SEGARS



The summer of 1987 will be remembered as a time of environmental calamities along the New Jersey coast. Nearly 200 tons of hospital waste, scheduled for incineration in Canada, found its way into the Atlantic Ocean and then onto New Jersey beaches. Sewage and garbage pollution produced high coliform counts, which caused occasional ocean beach closings and constant bayfront beach closings. Revenue loss was in the millions of dollars as tourists canceled plans to vacation at beachside resorts. Public outrage grew and nearly every New Jersey legislator participated in the introduction of bills to combat ocean pollution. And, if all this was not enough, the late summer brought a new disaster—dying bottlenose dolphins.

During the months of July, August and September, more than 80 dead bottlenose dolphins were recovered from Atlantic waters off the New Jersey coast. The dolphins were taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, New Jersey where they were autopsied. The tissue and blood samples from the postmortem examinations were forwarded to Dr. William Medway at the University of Pennsylvania for analysis. Initial studies were hampered by a lack of funding at the stranding center.

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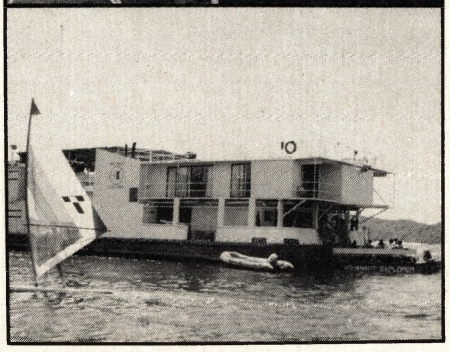
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DOLPHIN DEATHS

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center, a private non-profit organization, was incorporated in 1978 by Robert Schoelkopf and his wife, Shiela Dean. It is fully licensed by the state and federal government to rescue, rehabilitate and release stranded or distressed marine mammals. The center exists through donations, memberships, shirt sales, fundraisers and grants from private sources. The high cost of tissue and blood analysis, nearly $10,000 for ten bottlenose dolphins, quickly depleted the center's bank account and many of the dead animals could not be tested. It was not until early September that the state government reacted and initiated legislation to provide a $95,000 grant to the center to cover the cost of this testing.

New Jersey was not the only area affected by these deaths. More than 220 dead bottlenose dolphins washed up in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. To aid in the investigation of the dolphin deaths, a group of marine specialists was gathered by NOAA (the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) and headquartered in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This federally funded group recovered dead dolphins, performed necropsies and forwarded tissue and blood samples to a federal veterinary lab in Ames, Iowa.

According to Bob Schoelkopf of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, all of the dolphins that were recovered had the same symptoms: fluid in the lungs and a prevalence of infection. In 90 percent of the animals, lesions and deterioration of the skin were present. The symptoms led marine pathologists to believe the dolphins died from a bacterial infection, but it wasn't known why the immune system of the dolphins, a normally hardy species, didn't fight off the infection.

The initial discovery in the case came from the laboratory in Ames, Iowa, where the strain of bacterium was identified as *Vibrio*, which is very common in Atlantic waters. More research had to be conducted to determine whether pollution or a virus broke down the immune systems and allowed the bacteria to flourish. The head of the investigating team at Virginia Beach, Dr. Joseph R. Geraci of the Ontario Veterinary College, said a virus is the likely culprit because dolphins had been the only species affected by the illness and they displayed mouth ulcers that are a sign of viral problems.

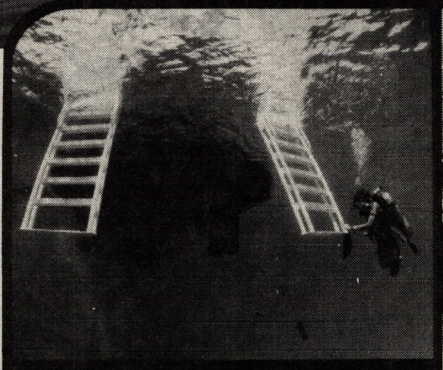
During the Labor Day weekend, Bob Schoelkopf reported that Dr. Medway had isolated a pox, similar to chicken pox in humans. This dolphin pox causes a blistering of the skin that allows *Vibrio* bacteria to enter to a point where the dol-

(Continued on Page 145)

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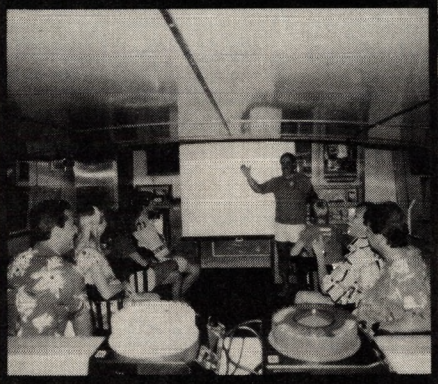
Dive ladders



Sun deck



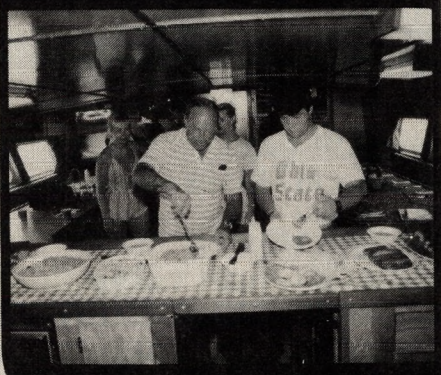
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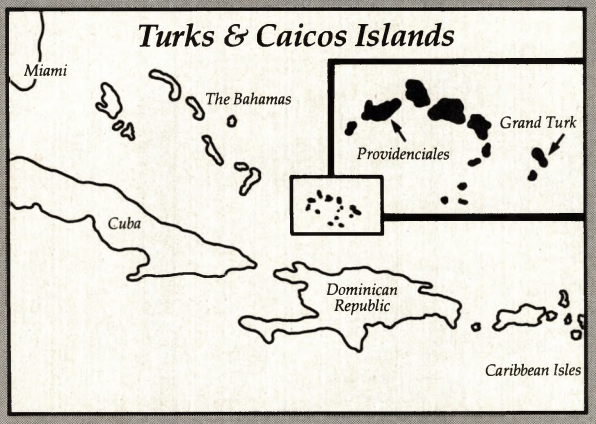
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Maravilla Yields Treasure

ONE EMERALD RECOVERED WEIGHS 100.85 CARATS



photo/courtesy MAR

BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Lost in the Bahamas in 1656, the *Maravilla* has been the object of several salvage attempts. Last summer, MAR found a number of artifacts, including emeralds, amethysts, coins and porcelain shards. The mother lode has not yet been found.

Emeralds, one almost as large as a golf ball, have been brought up from the wreck of *Nuestra Senora de la Maravilla*, lost in the Bahamas January 4, 1656. The 100.85 carat emerald, 43 smaller emeralds, numerous amethysts and other artifacts were found in July by divers aboard the R/V *Beacon*, owned by Maritime Archaeological Recovery Limited (MAR). On two other trips since then, 300 to 500 coins, silver cup handles, shards of Ming Dynasty porcelain and various articles of weaponry have been found. The salvagers also discovered two other wrecks in the area. One of these, known only as The Brass, Granite and Marble Ship, dates from the early 1900s. Hull plates of the other, thought to be a warship, are dated 1880. As we went to press in October, the year's final trip was being planned, weather permitting, for November.

MAR's salvage vessel, the 120 foot *Beacon*, is outfitted with modern search and recovery equipment. She carries 20 divers and technicians and has an extensive maritime history library.

MAR, owned by Herbert Humphreys, Jr., has been bringing up treasure—worth more than $4 million so far—from the *Maravilla* since last year. Twenty-five percent of the recovered treasure goes to the Bahamian government, MAR keeps the rest. Some of the artifacts are on display at the Cayman Maritime Treasure Museum on Grand Cayman Island, where Humphreys owns a hotel.

A 150 foot, three-masted Spanish galleon, the *Maravilla* had 650 people and treasure—valued at $1.6 billion today—aboard. It was on its way from Havana to Spain when, on a moonless night, it collided with another of the 17 vessels in its flotilla. The collision broke the ship in two and the halves are believed to have sunk in separate areas. As the wounded vessel careened about in its death throes, its treasure was scattered over an estimated 25 square miles.

Although the ship went down in only 30 feet of water, it was quickly covered with sand. It is thought to lie under 8 to 15 feet of sand and mud today. The Spanish tried to slavage the *Maravilla* soon after she sank but succeeded only in breaking her apart with their grappling hooks. An English adventurer located the wreck 50 years later but he, too, was unable to recover any of the treasure. Sir Robert Marx found and worked the wreck in the 1970s, salvaging part of it.

The *Maravilla* site is divable only a few months of the year, owing to turbulent waters and unpredictable weather. Besides the artifacts already mentioned, MAR has recovered battle axes, cannon balls, pottery and silverware. One of the most sought after treasures is a solid gold, life-size statute of the Madonna and child, the weight of which would be about 1,200 pounds. Such a statue was secretly commissioned by King Phillip IV. He had told the *Maravilla*'s captain he wanted to bring it back to Spain and that, for security reasons, no one was to know about it. The statue was not specifically listed on the ship's manifest, but knowledgeable sources expect it was part of the cargo listed simply as sacred and/or virgin images.

A trail of artifacts led Mel Fisher's salvage team to the mother lode of the *Atocha*. (It took 17 years!) Humphreys and MAR's marine archaeologist, Daniel Koski-Karell are hoping they have found a similar trail—one that will lead them to the *Maravilla*'s mother lode.

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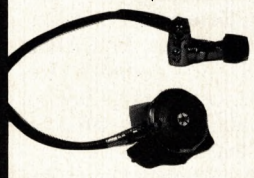
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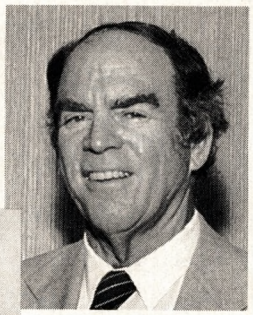
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Nogi Awards

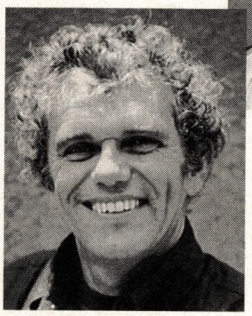
BY JIM WALKER



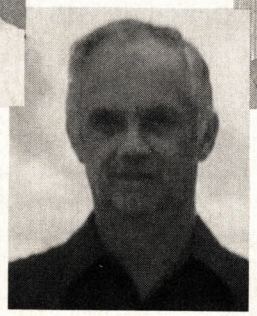
Nick Icorn



John H. Perry



Chuck Nicklin



James W. Miller

Since 1960, the Underwater Society of America has recognized significant contributions to sport diving through the presentation of its annual NOGI awards. These prestigious awards are given in four categories: arts, science, sports/education and distinguished service. The following individuals are the 1987 NOGI award recipients.

Chuck Nicklin/Arts: Charles (Chuck) Nicklin is a renowned underwater photographer. His assignments have taken him around the world and his credits include National Geographic, Life, Time, National Wildlife, Variety, Newsweek, Smithsonian, Brittanica, Sport Diver, SKIN DIVER, Atlantic, Sports Medicine and more.

Nicklin's cinema experience includes a variety of movie formats from 70mm to video and his credits include such movies as *The Deep*, *Never Say Never Again*, *For Your Eyes Only*, *Shark Treasure*, *OceanQuest* and more. He has worked on such documentaries as *Gentle Giants of the Pacific*, *Nomads of the Deep*, *Sea of Eden* and *Whales Weep Not*.

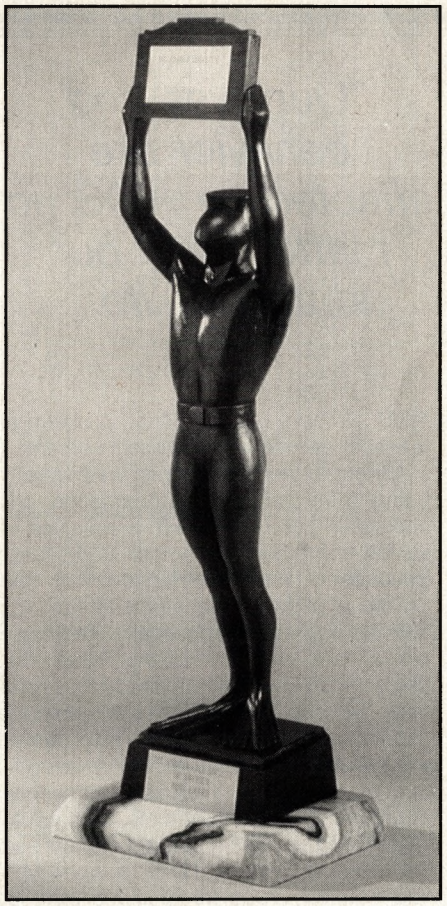
Nicklin has received many awards for his work, including an Emmy for *Mysteries of the Sea*. He has been a member of the Society of Operating Cameramen since its inception and is one of the founders of the San Diego Underwater Photographic Society and the society's yearly film festival.

Nicklin owns The Diving Locker chain of dive stores. Several outlets are found in the San Diego, California area. Through these, facilities and logistics are available for most film projects.

James W. Miller/Science: For many years James W. (Jim) Miller, Ph.D. has been involved in diving research. He graduated from the U.S. Navy Diving School and was an aquanaut. In 1963 he became director of the Engineering Phychology Branch of the Office of Naval Research, helping develop programs such



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Since 1960, the Underwater Society of America has recognized significant contributions to sport diving through the presentation of its annual NOGI awards.

as Sealab II. Miller was a leading investigator on the navy's Sealab II project, deputy director of Tektite I and director of Tektite II.

As liaison scientist for the Office of Naval Research in London in 1975-76 and, later, chairman of the U.S./Japan Natural Resource Panel on Diving Physiology and Technology, Miller coordinated diving information and research among many nations. He has been deputy director of NOAA's Manned Undersea Science and Technology Office and was editor of the *NOAA Diving Manual*.

Affiliated with the Florida Institute of Oceanography in St. Petersburg, Miller has operated Seawatch, in which sport divers are trained and used in the development and execution of scientific research programs.

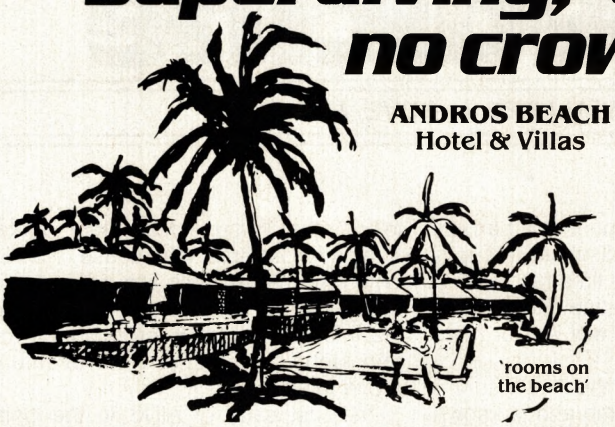
Currently, Miller coordinates an education and research program involving Sea World and the State University System of Florida, and serves as chairman of the Florida Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Board.

Nick Icorn/Sports/Education: Nick Icorn has held training positions with the Los Angeles County Instructors Association, NAUI, PADI, NASDS and SSI and currently serves on the advisory staff of

(Continued on Page 127)

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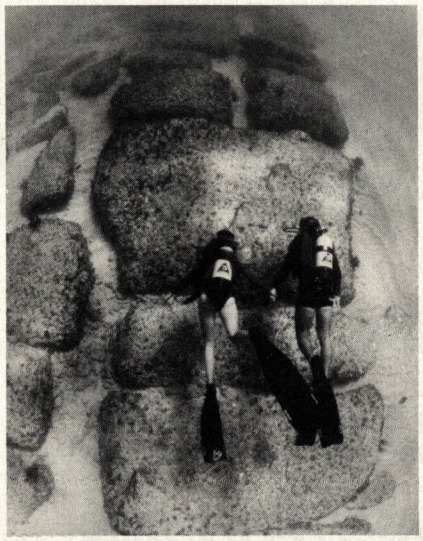
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Diving Medicine

BY ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

"Our lives and behavior are affected by AIDS no matter what our station in life."

We are presently experiencing an epidemic of a new disease. It is surprising, and at the same time fascinating, that an entirely new disease can develop that defies treatment in this era of high-tech medicine.

The disease is called the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome and is known to all of us as AIDS. It is caused by a new virus called HTLV III, which appears to have evolved from a virus present in the monkey population of Central Africa. Somehow, this virus infected humans, and at the same time, changed its nature so that it infects cells of the immune system necessary for protection against infection. The virus kills immune cells called T-helper lymphocytes. These are the control cells of the immune system, telling other immune cells when to attack foreign organisms that cause infection. When the helper cells are gone, the immune system functions improperly and the infected person cannot combat certain kinds of infection that eventually prove fatal.

The first case of AIDS in the United States was diagnosed in 1970. As of mid-1986, there were more than 20,000 cases reported. Some scientists feel that for each active case, there are 50-100 carriers who do not have active disease, but are infected with the virus. It is the fate of these carriers that is unknown. Clearly, there are many people carrying the virus who have no evidence of illness. We do not yet know if all or only a small proportion of them will eventually get AIDS. Of more concern is the problem of a carrier spreading the virus to others.

Although the AIDS virus was initially found in the homosexual population, it is now clear that it spreads from any type of sexual contact—it is a venereal disease. Because of this transmission trait, the likelihood of becoming infected increases with the degree of promiscuity. The more sexual partners you have, the higher your risk of AIDS infection. There are several other ways to become infected. Using a needle contaminated by an AIDS carrier will transmit the disease. This is a common problem in drug addicts and in spite of this danger, many addicts continue to share needles. Blood contact can spread the disease. Before 1985, people who had frequent blood transfusions were at

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risk. Now, there is a test that screens all blood for the AIDS virus. Any person whose blood tests positive for AIDS isn't accepted as a donor and any blood that tests positive is rejected.

The virus has been found in urine, saliva and tears. However, there is no documented case of AIDS being transmitted by these fluids. The virus is very fragile and cannot survive outside of the body. There has been no known spread from sharing the same food, eating with the same utensils, drinking from the same glass, breathing the same air, sharing towels or even sharing razors. Direct blood contact by transfusion or contaminated shared needles or sexual contact are the only means of spread known at present. There have been several cases in health care workers who were stuck with contaminated needles used by AIDS patients. Contact with contaminated blood is dangerous if there is a break in the skin that will let the virus in.

For the patient with active AIDS and its associated infections diving is not recommended because physical exertion is usually poorly tolerated. The infections often involve the lungs and would make diving difficult because of compromised lung function as well. Even those treated with the drug AZT, which slows the progression of the disease, are usually not healthy enough to undertake diving. Healthy carriers, however, should not have any problems. If you know that you are a carrier, a good practice would be to use only your own equipment. This has little to do with spreading the disease, but your colleagues will be less concerned if they do not have to share your equipment. At present, there is no contraindication to diving for AIDS virus carriers.

Preventing the spread of AIDS is, in theory, very easy. Avoiding sexual contact with many partners, minimizing promiscuity and knowing your partner's sexual habits are essential, but not presently practiced. Refusing to share needles with another drug addict will also reduce risk, but if you are injecting drugs, you shouldn't be diving. If you are a health care worker involved in the handling of contaminated blood specimens, you should wear gloves and follow contaminated blood precautions.

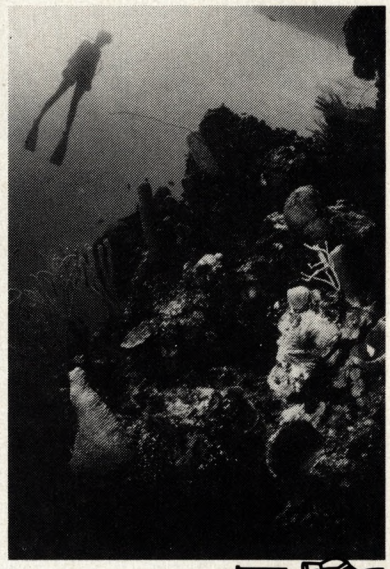
Based on the data now available, there is essentially no risk for infection from casual contact. Thus, no special precautions are needed for use of masks or regulators. The virus cannot survive in the aquatic environment and even sharing of eating utensils has not resulted in infection. For those using rental equipment, the care of regulators should be based on bacterial and fungal infection precautions. Thus, washing a rental regulator in a soapy solution is important, it will clear the regulator of bacteria or fungi that can spread infection. This same procedure will suffice to prevent spread of the AIDS virus, although it would not survive even if no disinfectant were used. Some peo-

(Continued on Page 143)

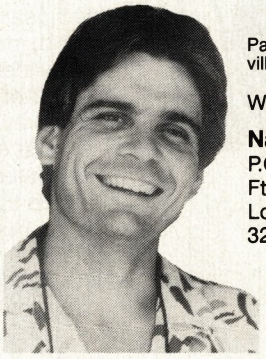
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TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Thank goodness diving's macho image is fading! This is happening just in time to save the backs of all those divers who are beginning to notice that, as they grow older, their gear grows heavier. I am a member of two dive clubs and, in the past four years, have noticed a proliferation of "wheelies" for dive gear. When the dive boat docks at the end of the day there's even a minor traffic jam as divers jockey for wheelie parking spaces that will result in the shortest distance between cart and gear.

Underwater Design Technology, Inc. (UDT) was one of the first companies to put wheels on gear bags. It introduced the Buddy Bag System in 1984. A year ago I wrote an article on the Buddy System II, the smaller version of the first Buddy Bag. Now UDT has introduced three more wheel systems, two for tanks and one for coolers.

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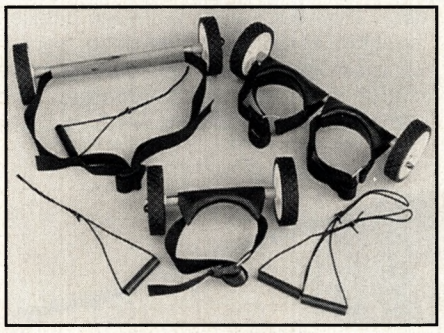
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le that has a plastic cradle shaped to fit a tank. A nylon webbing strap runs through the cradle. It has a plastic/stainless steel buckle and secures the tank to the cradle. A nylon rope with a PVC handle loops around the valve so you can pull the tank behind you. There is both a Single Tank Buddy and a Double Tank Buddy. This latter merely has a longer axle with two cradles and two loop handles. It is important to make sure the strap holds the tank securely and that the tank (or tanks) is balanced properly. The Single Tank Buddy worked best with my steel '72 when the wheels were just above the boot.

The Cooler Tote uses the same set of rubber wheels found on the Buddy Bag, the Buddy System II and the two Tank Buddies. It simply has a longer axle and a two piece vinyl housing that keeps the cooler from slipping. A nylon webbing belt with a plastic buckle holds the cooler in place. After positioning the cooler on the axle and adjusting the vinyl housing so it is about one inch wider than the bottom of the cooler, cinch the strap tight. Then loop the handle through a cooler handle and the tote is ready to go. Again, make sure the cooler is well balanced.

All of UDT's wheel systems are light weight and easy to assemble and disassemble. The wheels are held on the axles by spring clips and, once apart, the systems would be easy to pack for any type of travel. The Single Tank Buddy sells for $29.64; the Double Tank Buddy is $34.68; and the Cooler Tote is $47.70. You can also buy the wheels with an assortment of the axles, straps, housings and cradles that suit your special needs. These are priced according the number and type of components purchased. For more information write UDT, Inc., P.O. Box 1624, Nederland, TX 77627; or call (409) 724-1823.

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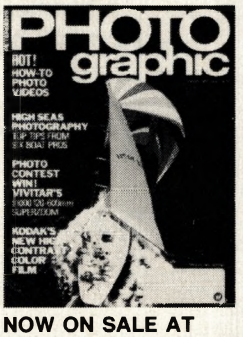
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Buddy Phone

AN ACCOUSTICAL COMMUNICATOR FOR DIVERS

BY JIM WALKER



The Buddy Phone has four major components (left to right): an underwater speaker, electronics box, mouth mask with built-in waterproof microphone and an earphone.

photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

The saying goes: "A picture is worth 1,000 words." And, in diving, hand signals can be the pictures. However, if you don't happen to know the hand signal for "Say, why don't you swim upward toward the sun, venting your BC as you go, so I can take a silhouette photograph of you ascending," then a few subsea words might come in handy. The Buddy Phone, from Ocean Technology Systems, would work well in this situation.

While the Buddy Phone isn't designed to allow you to recite the preamble to the Constitution to everyone on the reef, it does allow you to communicate detailed thoughts to your buddy at close range—via an earphone. It's also perfect for a scuba instructor or divemaster who wants to communicate with his/her



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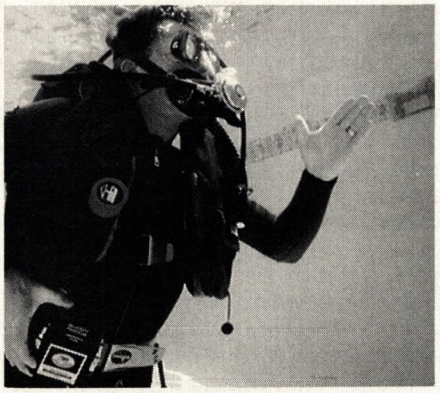
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charges U/W—via an small speaker.

The Buddy Phone has four major components—a mouth mask with built-in waterproof microphone, underwater speaker, earphone and electronics case:

The 5 x 3.5 x 2 inch electronics case is made of sturdy injection molded, glass filled polycarbonate. Its two halves seal with an O-ring and are secured with two steel clamps. There is a heavy polycarbonate clip screwed to the back of the case that allows it to be attached to a waistband or BC strap.

Inside one end of the case is a snap-out module that holds eight AA batteries. A set of new alkaline cells should provide 8-10 hours of operation, assuming a 20 percent duty cycle (meaning you're actually activating the speaker 20 percent of the time, which would be a lot of talking). The electronics are in the other end of the case, completely encased in potting compound. If water should ever get in the case, only the batteries and possibly their connecting wires could suffer any damage. The electronics are well protected.



With the U/W speaker (clipped on author's BC) you can speak to several divers.



photos/Ron Akeson

Diver Wayne Stone listens to instructions through the direct line and earphone.

The silicone mouth mask attaches to your regulator in place of the mouthpiece. Its open chamber allows you to form words in air. Sound is picked up by a waterproof microphone at the side of the chamber. The mouth mask is held in place by an adjustable head strap. When wearing the mask you breathe normally,

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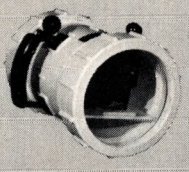


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BUDDY PHONE

with your regulator second stage performing all its usual functions, including purging if necessary.

The Buddy Phone's earpiece is in operation whenever the device is submerged. On a two and one-half foot cord, it allows you to speak directly to another diver. You or your buddy can hold it to his/her ear. When not using the earphone, you can put it in a BC pocket.

The Buddy Phone's underwater speaker can be held in the hand or clipped to a BC strap. It is activated when you touch a certain screw on the electronics case underwater. Through the speaker, you can talk to more than one person at a time or to a single diver without being encumbered by a wire.

The Buddy Phone is designed for certain limited applications, and the people at Ocean Technology Systems are up front about its use: The earphone offers the sharpest communication. The underwater speaker is intended for use fairly close. While it can be heard clearly in a pool at a distance of 20+ feet, in open water the sound dissipates and the listener would probably have to be much closer than that. A neoprene hood will cut the sound heard by about 50 percent. While your listener is exhaling, the sound of his/her bubbles will drown out the sound from the speaker. If you're speaking to a group of divers, you'll have to signal them when to inhale and say your piece during that time. Also, whether using the earphone or speaker, you'll have to enunciate carefully.

I found the head strap didn't need to be very tight. The slight positive pressure from the regulator seemed to keep water out. However, the strap should be placed high on the back of the head or the mouth chamber will pull down. Place the Buddy Phone's mask on your head first, then your facemask. Then pull the top of the mouth chamber away from the face so the facemask makes the primary seal.

When used as intended, the Buddy Phone performs well. It definitely feels strange at first, and takes a little practice to operate properly. But, for an instructor working with a group of divers in a pool or in open water under controlled conditions, or for an underwater photographer who needs to communicate to a model, it might just be the ticket. (Make sure you can get close to your camera's viewfinder when wearing the mask.)

The Buddy Phone retails for $350 and it and a variety of other underwater communication gear is available from Ocean Technology Systems. For information or the address of an OTS dealer, contact Ocean Technology Systems, 2610 Croddy Way, Unit H, Santa Ana, CA 92704; (714) 754-7848.

NOGI AWARDS

(Continued from Page 119)

most of them. In 1972 Icorn wrote pioneering works for diver education with his series of *Instructor Training Manuals* for PADI. In addition, he wrote the first formal set of operating standards for a national training organization, the *PADI Standards and Procedures Manual*. In 1974 he developed the Instructor Training Course (ITC) concept—a method where instructor candidates were tested and trained in a step-by-step manner. He further developed the Training Facility Program for dive school operations and diver specialty courses culminating in the Master Diver Award.

Icorn's writings include many articles on various aspects of diver training such as: emergency ascents, technical aspects of scuba equipment, equipment maintenance, legal aspects of diving instruction, the history of diving and more. He founded the National Scuba Training Council during the diving field's legislative crisis in 1974 and has served on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) committee in relation to scuba instructor and diver training criteria and on equipment standards.

Icorn continues to lecture around the world on the technical aspects of diving equipment and its evolution.

John H. Perry/Distinguished Service: John H. Perry, Jr. invented and developed the Perry Submarine (a small, manned vehicle) and other underwater vehicles and equipment used around the world. In cooperation with Edwin A. Link, he designed and built *Deep Diver*, the first commercial submarine with the capability of taking divers down and locking them in and out while on the ocean floor. He built the Hydro-Lab underwater habitat—which was placed on the ocean floor off Grand Bahama and was the nucleus of a long range scientific, educational and medical research program. He is the former president and chairman of Perry Publications, Inc., which, until 1969, operated a number of Florida newspapers and magazines.

Perry is chairman of two Florida corporations headquartered in Riviera Beach: Perry Oceanographics, Inc. and Perry Offshore, Inc. Perry Oceanographics is currently engaged in research and development of solar hydrogen energy as well as a program seeking to develop food production from the ocean. Perry Offshore, Inc., formerly Perry Submarine Builders, is now concentrating on remote controlled underwater vehicles and manufacture of one atmosphere bells capable of depths to 3,000 feet.

Through his membership on various marine science related committees and councils, Perry has helped direct the prudent utilization of U.S. ocean resources, especially in Florida.

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Ticket availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. The offer runs through January 31. Applications must be postmarked by February 29 and travel must be completed by midnight, December 15, 1988. The Pan Am Travel Coupon is valid for travel on all Pan Am "saver" fares, as well as regular fares, and is not valid on certain dates.

Nikon, Inc. has designated seven cameras for the promotion. These are the new N4004 and N2020 Autofocus 35mm SLR cameras; the Nikonos V 35mm camera; and the four autofocus, auto-everything 35mm compact cameras—the Fun-Touch, One-Touch, Tele-Touch Deluxe and Action-Touch.

The Nikon cameras must be purchased from dealers who have received them through Nikon, Inc., the authorized U.S. distribution subsidiary of Nippon Kogaku KK, Japan, manufacturer of Nikon brand cameras and photographic accessories. This offer applies to residents of the United States only.

BONAIRE MOORING PROGRAM

Long recognized as one of the world's premier scuba diving destinations and a leader in reef conservation, Bonaire has instituted a Sea Tether Mooring Program that will add 100 new moorings to the Bonaire Marine Park. "In order to remain the best destination for diving, it is imperative that Bonaire plan for its future," said Captain Don Stewart, Bonaire's longtime scuba pioneer and environmentalist who is supervising the program. "By placing these new moorings, Bonaire will maintain its continuing, productive reef/sea environment and guarantee the health of our community and our industry."

The program was developed to handle the increasing number of tourists and divers visiting Bonaire. Currently, there are seven dive shops and approximately 30

dive boats servicing Bonaire. Development plans call for the opening of four more shops in the near future. A majority of Bonaire's dive sites are clustered in common areas. The new moorings will expose fresh reefs and reduce the strain placed on existing sites.

The Sea Tether mooring was developed by John C. Halas, a marine biologist with the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. Halas recently visited Bonaire to analyze the island's seafloor. He concluded that his Sea Tether moorings are suitable for use on Bonaire's reefs.

In an effort to help finance and monitor interest in the program, individual moorings are available for sponsorship. Anyone who pledges $150 may sponsor a site. In return, each sponsor may choose the name and location for his/her site. To date, 21 sites have been sponsored. The Council of Underwater Resort Operators (CURO) sponsored the first in the name of Cap'n Don Stewart in honor of his 25th anniversary on Bonaire.

The Bonaire Marine Park was created in order to preserve the coral reef ecosystem and ensure continuing returns from scuba diving, fishing and other watersports activities. The park incorporates the entire coastline of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. For purposes of control, the park is defined as the "seabottom and the overlying waters from the highwater tidemark down to 200 feet."

The new Sea Tether system will permit dive boats to moor without harming the fragile reef ecosystem.

For further information about Bonaire or the Sea Tether Mooring Program, contact the Bonaire Government Tourist Office, 275 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001; (212) 242-7707.

SAND DOLLAR TREASURE HUNT

The first annual Undersea Treasure Hunt will be held at the Sand Dollar Beach Club April 15-22. Treasure chests will be hidden at all dive sites that the club's divers will visit between those dates. Some of the chests will contain a prize listing.

First prize will be two round trip tickets to Bonaire via ALM, a seven night stay at the Sand Dollar Beach Club, two meals per day and unlimited diving. Besides ALM, other sponsors will be Nikon, Inc., Mineral Ice and Henderson Aquatics.

For more information call (800) 345-0805; in New Jersey call (609) 298-2298.

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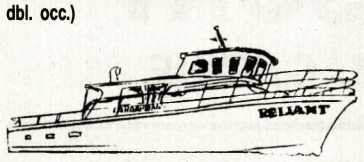
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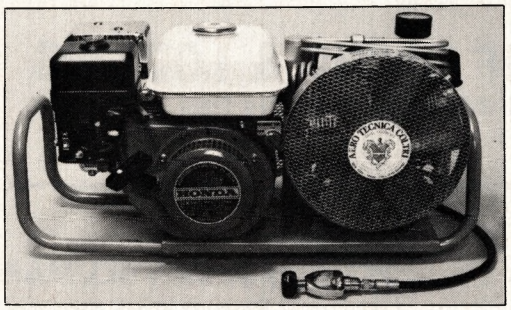
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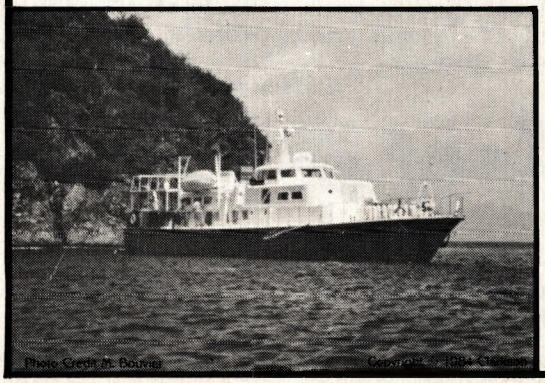
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SAND DOLLAR BONAIRE

Sand Dollar Dive and Photo has added two new boats. Both are 36 feet in length with a cabin and roof. They are ideal for the waters of Bonaire. Each has two 140 horsepower engines, making any dive site just a short, comfortable trip away.

The boats are ideal for trips to Washington Park on the north end of the island. The all day trip with picnic lunch allows two dives in the park. A trip to the south end of the island includes lunch on Pink Beach near the flamingo sanctuary.

For more information about Sand Dollar Condominiums and Sand Dollar Dive and Photo, please contact The Travel Barn, 50 Georgetown Rd., Bordentown, NJ 08505 or call toll free (800) 345-0805.

MAUI UNDERWATER CLEANUP

Five hundred pounds of underwater garbage was collected by volunteer divers recently off Maui. The cleanup, sponsored by Central Pacific Divers, was instigated by the unsightly debris that detracts from the reefs' beauty and menaces its marine life.



photo/Rod Canham

Armed with mesh catch bags and gloves, 16 divers retrieved plastic bags, cups, nets and monofilament fishline, glass bottles, cans, diapers, steel cable and non-biodegradable plastics.

Central Pacific Divers' owner, Pete Cambouris, skippered his 50 foot dive boat *Alaskan* for the dives. A post dive luncheon was furnished by the new Plantation Inn. Participating dive shops included Central Pacific Divers, Captain Nemo's, Extended Horizons, Lahaina Divers and Scuba Schools of Maui.

AKR FREE SPORTFISHING

In January, Anthony's Key Resort will offer, on a one time trial basis, sportfishing opportunities for divers and other guests at no additional cost. "We have, over the years, concentrated on diving, but have had so many requests for deep-sea sportfishing that we decided to give it a try," says owner Julio Galindo.

The resort will provide boats for fishing daily from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and will furnish, without charge, light and heavy tackle and a guide. The boats will cruise along Roatan's uninhabited north coast some 300 yards off the outer edge of reef drop-offs where waters reach depths of 800 to 900 feet. Sailfish, marlin, king mackerel, wahoo and tuna may be found there. Galindo notes that if a trophy size catch is taken, there are facilities for freezing it and shipping it wherever desired for taxidermy.

The eight day package includes fishing, three boat dives per day, two night boat dives per week, unlimited shore diving, three meals per day, horseback riding, use of windsurfers and Sunfishes, and other activities. Reduced rates for nondivers are available.

Reservations for the special January package featuring sportfishing may be made by calling (800) 227-DIVE or (305) 858-DIVE.

GO DIVING PACKAGES

Anthony's Key Resort and Coco View Resort are found amid the gentle swaying palms and cayes of Roatan. Guanaja, with its rich green hillsides of palm and pine and no roads, is home to the Bayman Bay Club and Posada del Sol. In addition to diving and snorkeling these resorts offer swimming, the use of windsurfers and Sunfish, tennis, horseback riding and hiking. Barbeques are a weekly event. Island tours and sunset cruises are available. Film can be developed on the premises.

Go Diving, Inc. offers diver and nondiver packages for these resorts. All packages include accommodations, three meals per day, diving daily, transfers and hotel activities. With the same toll free telephone call to Go Diving, Inc., airline reservations can be made to coordinate with the land packages.

For more information and reservations call or write: Go Diving, Inc., 7630 West 78th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55435; (800) 823-5285; (612) 942-9687 in MN.

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Turneffe Island Lodge on Caye Bokel in Belize has a new telephone number and address. For reservations and information write P.O. Box 24781, Jacksonville, Florida 32241. The new telephone numbers are nationwide toll free (800) 338-8149 or (800) 772-1002. In Florida, dial (904) 262-9564.

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THE Monitor



photo/courtesy Harper's Weekly

THE ENIGMA OF THIS CIVIL WAR GUNBOAT HAS IRONIC TWISTS

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

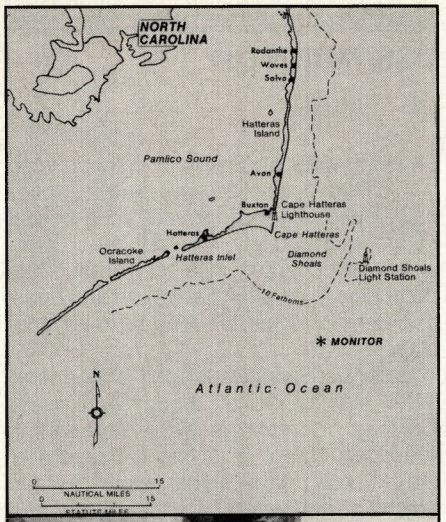
Like the RMS *Titanic*, the USS *Monitor* has presented its finders with a nagging problem. Now that they've found it, what are they going to do with it?! But in the *Monitor*'s case, the enigma has some ironic twists and conjectures.

A famous Civil War gunboat lost in 1862, 17 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, the *Monitor* actually was discovered in 1973 by a Duke University research team. But it wasn't until last summer that detailed studies were made to determine once and for all the feasibility of raising the wreck. *Deep Drone*, a self-propelled robot developed by Eastport International, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, spent three weeks photographing, probing, testing and measuring the remains of the warship, which rest in 220 feet of water.

At the start of each day, even when huge swells rocked the oceangoing tug, *Apache*, like a cradle, a crane lowered *Deep Drone* over the side for its dive into history. The deepsea robot's pilot—John Finke—worked in a dimly lit control room aboard the tug. He and several colleagues used a bank of video monitors and sensing instruments to guide the robot around the wreck. Similar to *Jason*, a robot used in the *Titanic* expedition, *Deep Drone* became the scientists' eyes beneath the sea.

Not new to dramatic ocean surveillance, this is the same vehicle that located fragments from the space shuttle, *Challenger*, and searched for a flight recorder when a Russian fighter shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007. One of the most advanced deepsea robots ever built, this workhorse remained on the ocean floor 12 hours a day, far longer than divers and manned submersibles had managed in the past. It lugged heavy

photo/courtesy NOAA



photo/Ellsworth Boyd



***Monitor* was lost off Cape Hatteras. Her battle with *Merrimack* was at close range.**

equipment, including video cameras and a pair of 35mm cameras set up to take three dimensional photographs. Using signaling devices planted on the ocean floor, *Deep Drone* precisely mapped the *Monitor* site on a grid system similar to those used in archaeological digs. During another segment of the mission, thousands of photographs were taken to create a detailed photo mosaic of the wreck.

The $1.8 million expedition was a joint undertaking of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Navy, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Parks Department. Dail Brown, NOAA's expedition leader, said: "Our main objective was to determine the physical condition of the *Monitor* and find out whether all or part of the wreck should be raised. I can assure the American public that no action will be taken that might harm the remains of this historic ship. As our studies evolve, we will be in a position to determine the best course of action to preserve this important piece of our heritage."

Craig Mullen, president of Eastport International, said: "The general consensus is the *Monitor* is in worse shape than anticipated. The long term prognosis isn't good. If the decision is made to do something with the vessel, it will have to be done within the next few years. Otherwise, it will dissolve and crumble"

Preliminary data already shows that some sections of the *Monitor* are deteriorating rapidly. A *Deep Drone* probe used to measure corrosion poked right through the turret's outer layer, originally a one-inch thick iron plate when the *Monitor* was built in 1862. Corrosion accelerates in saltwater, compared to fresh water, and warmth from the Gulf Stream hastens it. At 220 feet, a rich supply of dissolved



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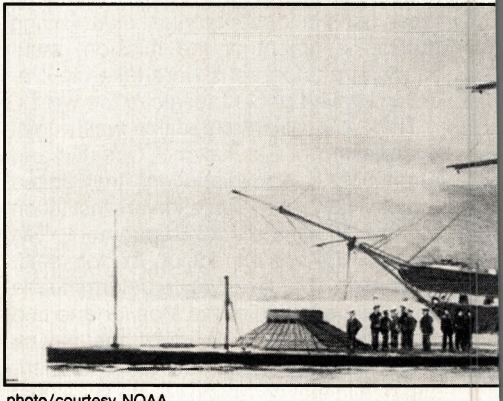
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oxygen swiftly turns iron to rusty powder.

"A little corrosion isn't bad," Mullen said, "because it might set up a barrier layer. Unfortunately, the *Monitor*'s corrosion is proceeding at a rapid rate. Data continues to be analyzed again and again to determine what the long term prognosis will be."

Saltwater hasn't been the only enemy of the *Monitor*. During World War II, when German submarines were devastating American shipping in this Graveyard of the Atlantic, navy ships depth-charged anything that hinted of a U-boat on their sonar detectors. Two depth charges scored direct hits, hurling the Civil War wreck's hull plates and beams asunder. She had already taken her share of punishment in the battle against the *Merrimack* in March 1862. More than 20 hits by Confederate shells, some of which left dents as deep as four inches, have been counted in the *Monitor*'s turret armor. To make matters worse, the vessel is upside

Above right: Officers of the USS *Monitor* pose on her deck. Right: A diorama of the battle. Below: *Monitor*'s low profile earned her the name "cheesebox on a raft."



photo/courtesy NOAA

down, resting on the displaced turret. More than half of the existing structure is being supported by the turret.

Ernest Peterkin, a retired naval officer from Camp Springs, Maryland was the chief technical expert on the history of the *Monitor* and director of *Deep Drone*'s photographic mission. A leading historian and scientist, he visited the *Monitor* site aboard the Johnson Sea Link submersible years ago when the ironclad was first explored. He recently plotted approximately 200 places where pictures were taken to show structural details. From this mosaic he makes engineering assessments of the extent of corrosion and danger to movement of various components of the vessel. The same pictures might also solve some mysteries.

"One mystery," Peterkin said, "is the fact that armor is still attached to the sides of the hull. The armor was fastened

to wood planking that sheathed the hull and that wood is pretty much gone by now. We can only speculate what's holding the armor in place."

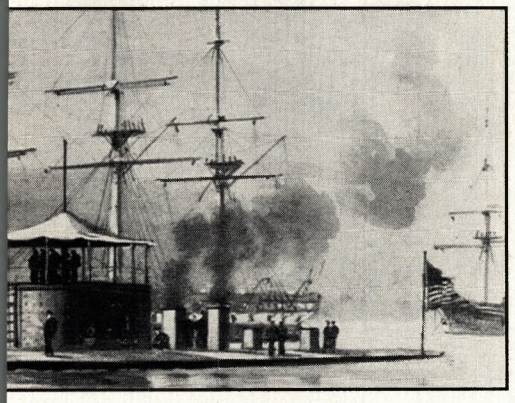
In preparation for the expedition, Peterkin compiled a catalogue as thick as a New York telephone directory of the machinery, stores, ammunition and equipment believed to have been in the *Monitor*'s 117 compartments when the ship sank. The project required an extensive



photo/courtesy Library of Congress



photo/Ellsworth Boyd



search of old contracts, navy records, drawings and letters from crew members to relatives. Everything from paint brushes to soap dishes is included. Archaeologists are hoping that sooner or later most of the thousands of items in the catalogue will turn up on the ocean floor. Although the robot could have brought up many artifacts, it left everything on the bottom untouched.

"As we study our photographs," Peterkin said, "we log the exact spot where each artifact lies. This may help us identify the function of many of the *Monitor*'s compartments."

The *Monitor* was the technological wonder of her day and her innovations greatly influenced future warship construction. She became the prototype of the modern battleship. Among the 40 inventions that could have been patented had she not sunk were flush toilets, a

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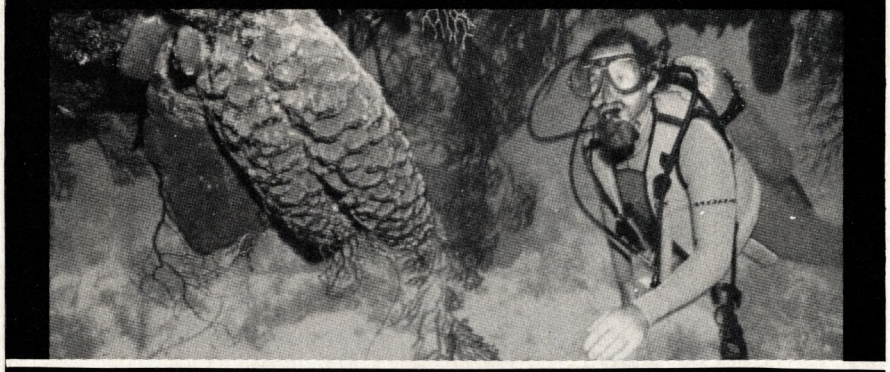
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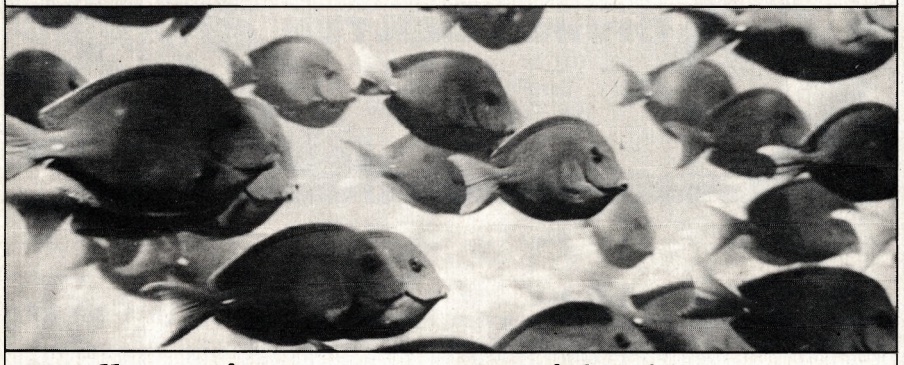
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USS MONITOR

screw propeller, forced-air ventilation, a hidden anchor and a revolving turret. The turret, mounted on a flat deck, gave the ship her "cheesebox on a raft" nickname. Made from thick armor plating, the rotary box permitted the guns to shift aim while the ship remained on course.

The famed battle—called *Monitor* versus *Merrimack* in most history books—took place off Hampton Roads, Virginia, March 9, 1862. The Confederate vessel was actually the CSS *Virginia*; the original *Merrimack* burned and sank, but was raised, rebuilt and rechristened. Union



citizens were hysterical, fearing the Confederate ironclad *Merrimack* might steam up the Potomac River and bombard the Capitol. She was already methodically destroying the wooden federal fleet, ship by ship.

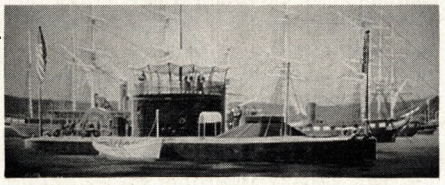
In desperation, the *Monitor* was built hurriedly. Upon completion, people wondered if the Navy Department had gone mad spending money on such an unconventional design. They feared she could not possibly carry the weight of iron that designer John Ericsson had placed on her. Some called the ship "Ericsson's Folly" and were sure such a small vessel carrying only two guns would be slaughtered by the ten gun *Merrimack*.

The rest is history. Shot and shell ricocheted off both armored vessels as they blazed away—often at point-blank range—in a four hour shootout that ended in a draw. The battle ended the era of wooden warships. The Union immediate-

ly ordered the construction of 31 more iron vessels, introducing a new age of naval warfare.

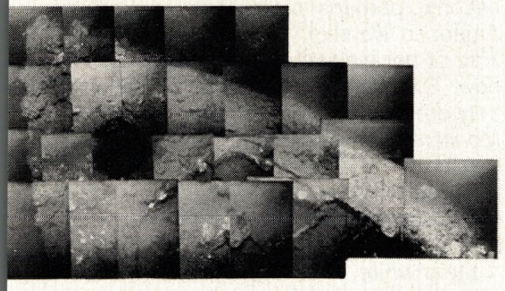
A few months after the battle, Confederate sailors destroyed the *Merrimack* to prevent it from being captured by federal troops that had seized Norfolk. The *Monitor* met her sad end a little more than nine months after the historic battle. Four days after Christmas in 1862, the union sidewheeler *Rhode Island* was towing the *Monitor* to Beaufort, North Carolina to strengthen the naval phase of a combined land and sea attack on Wilmington. Seas were calm until sunrise, December 30, when strong winds kicked up, threatening gale conditions. By nightfall, in choppy, rampant swells, the *Rhode Island* lost control of the *Monitor*.

Three seaman volunteered to go forward to cut the towline. Two were washed off the deck and drowned while the third succeeded in parting the line. As the *Monitor*'s anchor was dropped, the chain ripped the watertight packing out of



photo/Ellsworth Boyd

Left: Phillip Johnson with a signal lantern retrieved during a *Monitor* expedition. Above: A drawing of the *Monitor* in port. Below: A photo mosaic of *Monitor*'s bow.



the hawsepipe, leaving an eight-inch hole for water to pour through. It gushed into the engine room and doused the fires. Without steam, the pumps stopped and the 173 foot long warship started to founder. The decks, with a low, two-foot freeboard, were awash. A black cat wailed from inside a Dahlgren gun where seaman Francis Butts had put it to keep it alive as long as possible. One of the survivors, paymaster William Keeler, later wrote: "The scene aboard our dying ironclad appalled the boldest heart. Mountains of water rushed across our deck. The small rescue boats were mere playthings crashing against our sides amidst the foamy billows. The ghastly glare of the blue lights burning on our consort fashioned a panorama of horror that time will never erase from my memory."

The captain ordered his men to abandon ship. The crew forfeited their belongings to waist-deep water below decks

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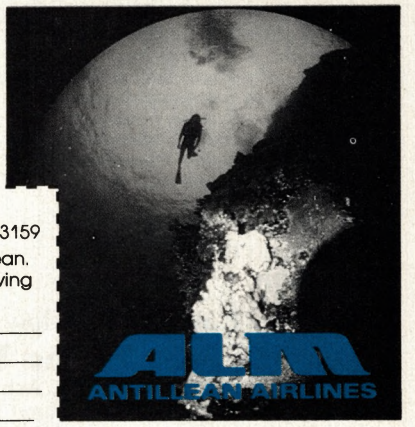
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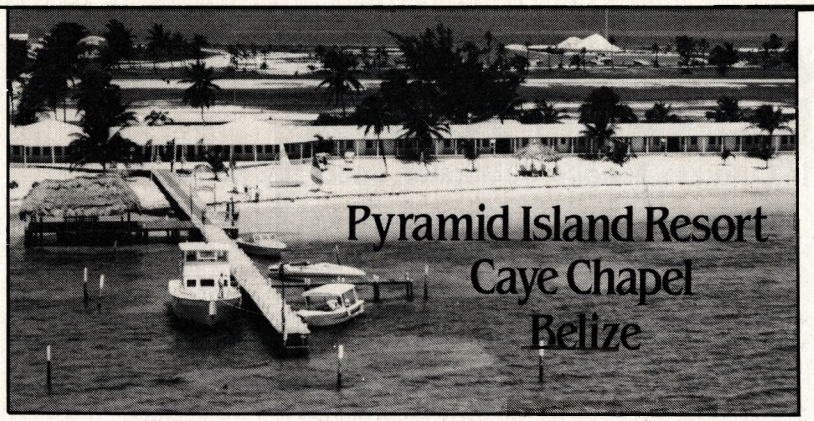
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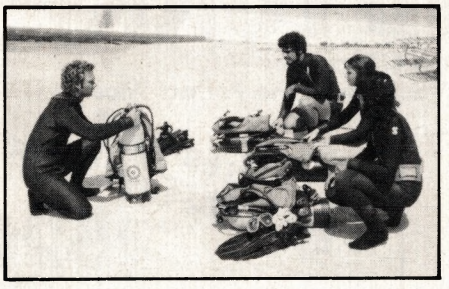
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and lowered the last rowboat, which was too small to carry everybody who remained. With a promise to return, some of the crew started a lengthy journey toward the *Rhode Island*, separated from the *Monitor* by more than a mile of churning water. When the boat finally reached the rescue ship, the men scrambled aboard.

Struggling through raging seas, seaman Rodney Brown headed back to the ironclad. Three-fourths of the way back to the foundering vessel, he watched helplessly as the distress lanterns vanished beneath the waves. The *Monitor*, with a loss of 11 men, sank early in the morning of New Year's Eve, 1862.

Not long after the shouts of men faded into the stormy night, a new controversy arose. How dare the navy lose its famous ironclad at sea? Was it owing to poor seamanship? Or was it a flaw in her design? Why was it the ironclad *Passaic*, built right after the *Monitor*, survived the very same storm? Was it true the *Monitor* was basically a river and harbor craft, intended for blockading southern ports and not designed to sail the open sea under her own steam? Were her decks nearly awash under the best of conditions because of her low freeboard?

The *Monitor* seems to have raised questions and captured people's imaginations, perhaps more than any other American warship. This was true at the time of her sinking and is even more so now. Everybody realizes that something truly dramatic happened. Not only did the *Monitor* prevent the south from destroying the Union fleet, but it hastened the collapse of a southern offensive while demonstrating that something revolutionary was happening in iron ships.

Meanwhile, the whole world will be watching to see how the United States handles research and preservation of the prized *Monitor*. Poorly planned salvage missions have raised other Civil War wrecks from the water, only to have them tear apart from the strain.

Dane Konop, spokesman for the expedition, said: "We're trying to set a standard for marine archaeology. When other people find a wreck, we want them to say, 'What did they do in the *Monitor* project?'" The general consensus of expedition leaders points to an unlikely salvage of the entire *Monitor*, but recovery of some of its components might be a practical objective.

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MARTINI SCUBA BOAT

Martini Scuba, a PADI Five Star Instructor Development Center in Yonkers, New York has a new dive boat. It will be used in training and recreational diving in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean off Long Island and New Jersey. The custom boat was built to Martini Scuba specifications by Munson Boatworks in Washington. The all aluminum, 40 foot vessel is powered by four 200 horsepower outboard engines mounted behind the transom. Entries and exits are made using the midship platforms and ladders. Ample internal space allows accommodating 20 divers comfortably.

The boat is utilized every weekend for training from entry level open water courses through instructor development and evaluation. It makes two dive trips every Saturday and Sunday; the morning trips typically are devoted to training dives and the afternoon trips may include advanced open water or specialty diving plus non-training recreational dives. Night dive trips are run twice a week.

For more information on boat trips or instruction (including regularly scheduled instructor development courses), call John Maraventano, general manager, or Ernie Feleppa, training director, at (914) 779-9786. Martini Scuba is at 2037 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10710.

BIELENDA/EDBA

Captain Steve Bielenda has been appointed president of the Eastern Dive Boat Association. He is a PADI instructor/trainer and owner/operator of the research vessel *Wahoo*, a 55 foot charter dive boat operated out of Captree Boat Basin, Long Island, New York.

The Eastern Dive Boat Association was started in the late 1970s by New York and New Jersey dive boat operators. Their goal was to standardize charter operations, promote safety and enhance the overall sport of wreck diving. Today, the 26 member association also includes Delaware and Virginia.

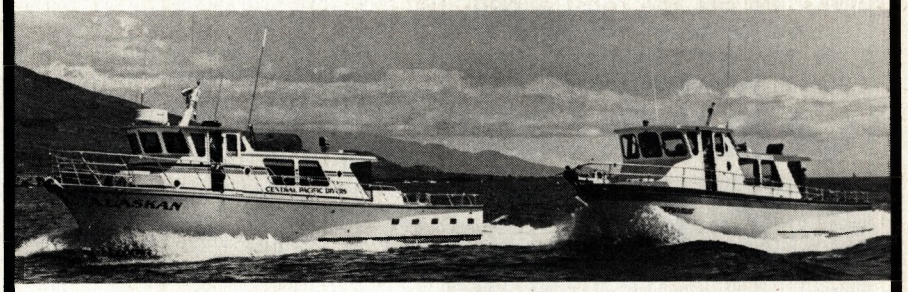
For information on the Eastern Dive Boat Association send a self-addressed stamped envelope to EDBA, P.O. Box 888, Miller Place, NY 11764; or call (516) 928-3849.



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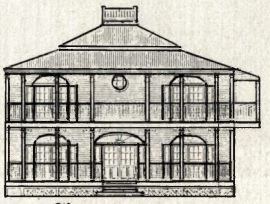


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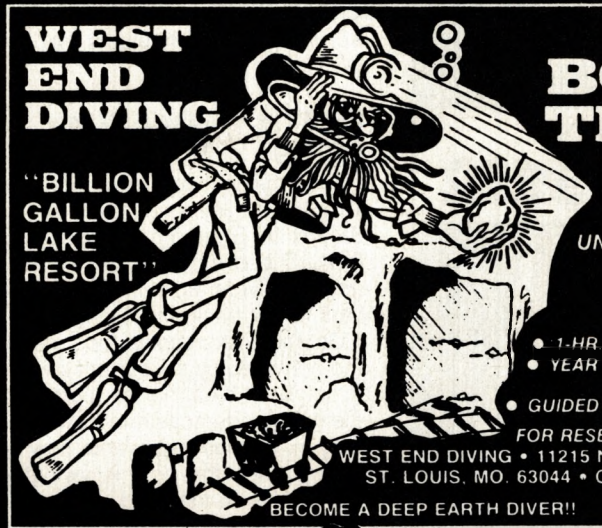
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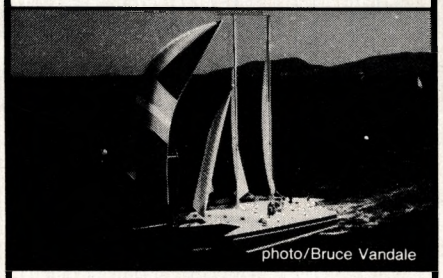
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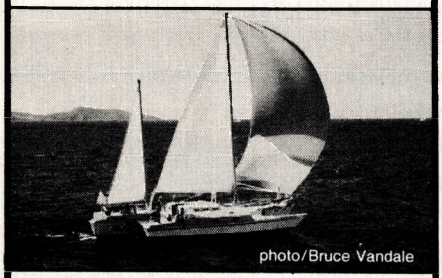
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photo/Bruce Vandale

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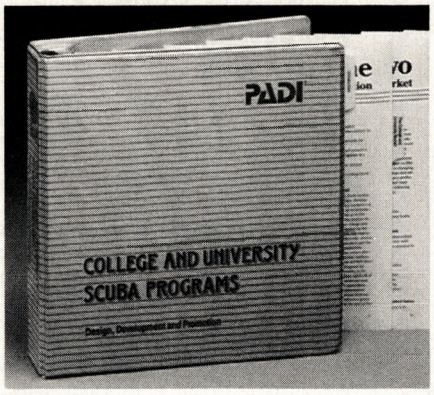
or write-Trimarine Homeport St. Thomas USVI 00802

SEATEC PEOPLE

Terry Jones has relocated to Hawaii, where he will represent the Seatec product line. Taking over Jones' former territory is Jeff Ruscigno. Jeff has been with Seatec for 15 years in various positions, including manufacturing and product development. And, for the past eight years, he has been the salesman for the Southeast.

PADI UNIVERSITY SCUBA PROGRAMS

PADI now offers a guide to developing college-level scuba programs. It contains



everything needed to help instructors and stores start programs at their local institutions of higher learning, including sample proposals and curriculums.

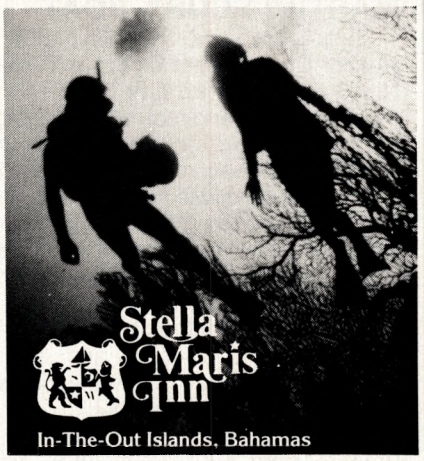
TRUTH WEDNESDAY TRIPS

Boat diving experience trips will now be offered Wednesdays year-round aboard the Southern California dive boat *Truth*. These trips are geared for newly certified divers as well as those who just want to get back into diving easily.

On the Wednesday trips the captain and crew deploy the current line and give an in-water example of exactly how to use it. They demonstrate how to board a boat in choppy seas and how to time entries when the boat is swinging from side to side in the wind.

Most weekend boat trips are geared for game hunting and photography, and many instructors with classes and newly certified divers have no trips in which to obtain boat diving experience. The Wednesday trips are for old salts with new family divers, instructors with small groups, divers who haven't kept active and divers who have not received boat diving training. The boat departs at 6:00 am from Sea Landing Breakwater in Santa Barbara and returns at 5:00 pm.

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COLEY/SEAQUEST

Ron Coley was recently named marketing coordinator for SeaQuest, Inc. As an independent film producer he was responsible for the series of informational and instructional videotapes currently available from SeaQuest. In his new position he will be involved in all aspects of marketing with special emphasis placed on public relations, the creation of new promotional materials and the coordination of SeaQuest's program of repair and maintenance seminars.



As a freelance underwater cinematographer and director, Coley has won many prestigious awards and honors in international film festivals. Recently, in addition to filming all of the underwater footage for the highly acclaimed *The River of Innocence*, Coley also wrote, produced and directed this television special for the Public Broadcasting System.

Other recent projects Coley has been involved in include work for the BBC, Oceaneering International, the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the CBS Movie of the Week, as well as projects with other international producers.

"SeaQuest has always led the way in the use of film, video and audio/visual support for the diving retailer," said Coley recently, explaining his move to marketing. "We have very ambitious and far-reaching plans in the area of communications."

PADI MODULAR SCUBA COURSE A/V

PADI has updated its Modular Scuba Course Audio/Visual program. This newest edition features the latest in diving



equipment and techniques and is available to all PADI training facilities and instructors. For more information, contact PADI, 1243 East Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

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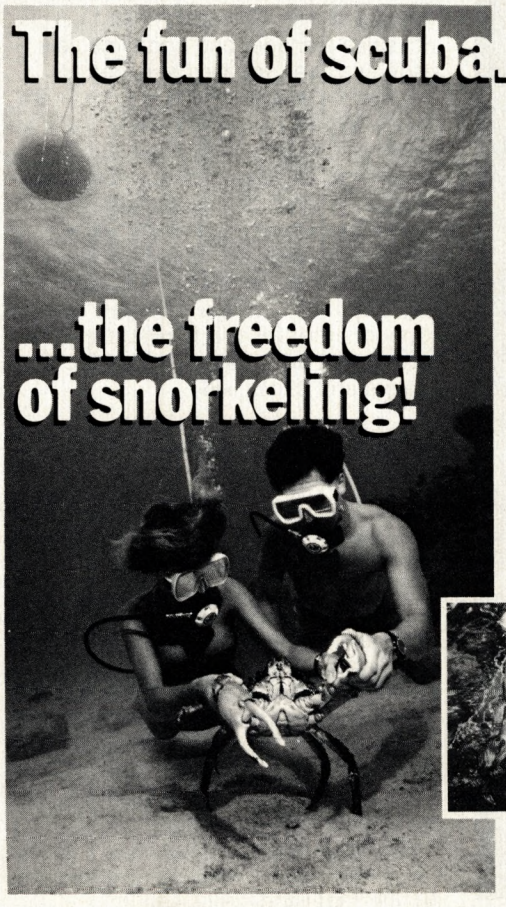
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BOHMRICH/DACOR

Dacor Corporation has appointed Jack L. Bohmrich director of sales. In this capacity, Bohmrich will be responsible for overall sales systems, personnel and support programs worldwide.



Bohmrich has been with Dacor for more than 21 years, with previous responsibilities as export manager, manager of research and development and director of international operations. He has traveled extensively, maintaining contact with overseas and Canadian and Caribbean dealers and distributors—and has taught technical repair seminars and retail management workshops. He has been an active instructor since 1963 and is a frequent contributor at diver conferences. Previously, he had 16 years' experience in U.S. domestic sales including time spent with Evinrude Motors as district sales manager and prior time as a liaison engineer and field service rep.

Bohmrich indicates a strong new emphasis will be placed on dealer support systems including both computer based information services and expedited shipping procedures. The entire area of dealer service programs is being expanded and accelerated. An equally expanded program of new product introductions will begin in 1988 and the enlarged service support program will facilitate efficient distribution of those new products to dealers and divers.

BERRY/LOMBARD

Berry Scuba Company has expanded its Lombard, Illinois facility in the Yorktown Shopping Center. It has moved a few doors away to an area over three times as large as the previous location. The facility includes expanded rental and instructional sections, modern showroom and display areas and a totally separate store for the lady diver!

The new women's section features everything from stylish wetsuits to color coordinated weights and accessories. A unique approach to selling scuba, this store is staffed by women.

For more details, contact Berry Scuba Co., Yorktown Center, Lombard, IL 60148; (312) 495-2822.

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WOMEN INSTRUCTORS

More female divers are becoming instructors than ever before, according to recent enrollments at PADI International College. During the college's most recent instructor development courses, for example, 13 of 25 candidates were female.



And, the number of facilities requesting female instructors from the college has never been higher. This trend is a reflection of the increased number of women entering diving in the past few years.

For information on the many programs offered at PADI International College, call the dean's office at (800) 223-8697 (in California), (800) 235-3434 (U.S.) or (715) 540-7234 (outside the U.S.).

DIVING MEDICINE

(Continued from Page 121)

ple recommend a solution of one part household bleach and 10 parts water for a disinfectant. Remember that bleaches can damage the rubber parts of your equipment, so if you use such a solution, be sure to thoroughly rinse the gear in fresh water before drying. All of these precautions are useless, however, if you decide to have sex with an unfamiliar partner. This alone produces an enormous risk. The use of a condom is helpful, but probably does not make sex absolutely safe.

We know that female carriers of the AIDS virus will infect their unborn babies and the donated organs of carriers will infect those who receive them. We know that once AIDS becomes an active disease, the mortality is 100 percent. We do not know yet whether all carriers of the virus will eventually get the active disease.

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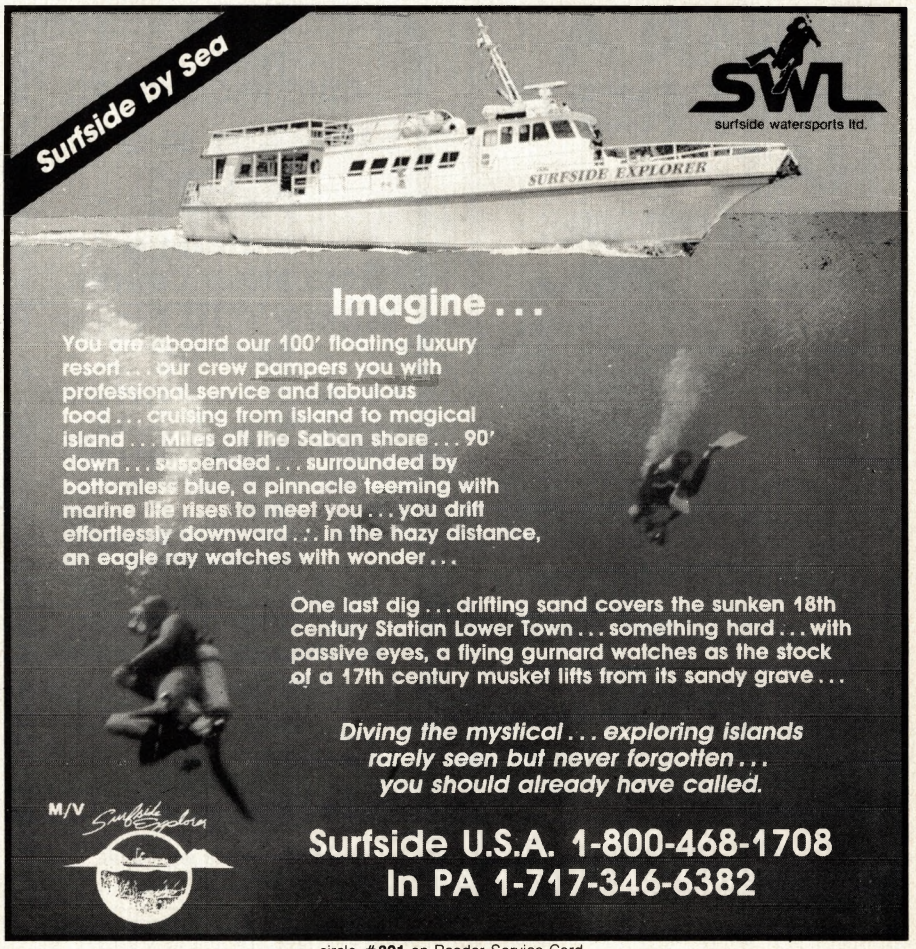
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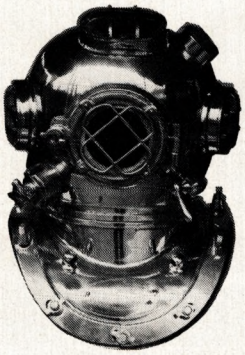
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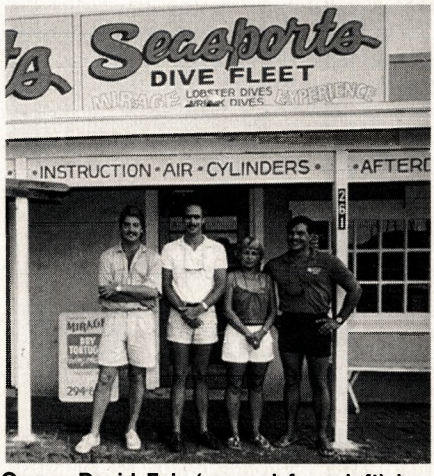
(Continued from Page 29)

that repeat business I think it's that added touch of service that keeps people coming back."

Stevens brings not only a service-oriented attitude to the business, but also the experience of a lifetime of diving in Key West. He and Captain Joe Seaborne know the reefs intimately enough to point out and describe individual coral heads.

The reefs visited on the regular trips are Sambo's, Eastern Dry Rocks, Sand Key, Rock Key and Western Dry Rocks. These are typical spur and groove formations as deep as 30 feet. They are similar to the bank reefs in Key Largo's Pennekamp Park. While Key West has not benefitted from the state and federal management that has protected Pennekamp Park from environmental degradation, a local group named Reef Relief has installed mooring buoys at some sites and is organizing a "community level management program."

"To be honest, though," says owner Fair, "the diving here—apart from the Tortugas—is really not any better than it



Owner David Fair (second from left) has been a national spearfishing champion.

is in Key Largo. The reason that people drive those few extra miles is for what you can do *after* you dive." There is such a myriad of historical sites, attractions and activities in Key West it would be impossible to list them all. Some of the more popular are the Key West Aquarium, Mel Fisher's Treasure Museum, the Conch Train, Ernest Hemingway's home, the Wrecker's Museum, the Wharf Dolphin Show, the glassbottom boat, fishing charters, sailing and windsurfing, shopping on Duval Street (second only to Bourbon Street in selection of T-shirts of questionable taste) and the obligatory sunset at Mallory Square with jugglers, magicians, musicians, acrobats and fools! A visit to Hemingway's favorite watering hole, Sloppy Joe's Bar, can also be considered almost a requisite, although there is an immensity of other

bars and cabarets offering a variety of food and music and an endless supply of tropical concoctions with witty names.

What really draws people to Key West is not just the many things to do and see. Nor is it the picturesque beauty of the island with its palm-lined beaches and gingerbread Victorian-style homes. It's the atmosphere—an ambiance of unabashed hedonism. Everyone is on vacation here, even the locals.

For a good dive/hotel package ask Seasports to book you into the Hampton Inn. This brand-new, affordably priced lodge sits right on the gulf, with a spectacular view from the outdoor pool and spa, and offers free in-room movies, free local phone calls, nonsmoking rooms and complimentary continental breakfast.

Seasports will soon be opening a second store in Palm Beach, which will feature an indoor heated pool and a ski deck with a synthetic slope. Both scuba and ski instruction will be offered. For more information on either location contact: Seasports, 101 Margaret St., Land's End Village, Key West, FL 33040; (305) 294-6224 or (305) 294-6172.

DOLPHIN DEATHS

(Continued from Page 112)

phin cannot fight off the infection and succumbs to it. The origination of this dolphin pox remains unknown.

The number of dead dolphins is staggering when compared to the normal recovery of two or three dead dolphins during a typical summer season. And, if the reports from the stranding center are correct, these dead dolphins only represent about one-third of the number that actually have died. The remainder were carried farther out to sea or became part of the food chain. The population of the bottlenose dolphins along the East Coast is very difficult to determine, but it is estimated there are nearly 9,000 ranging from Canada to North Carolina during the warm months. If the one-third theory holds true, more than ten percent of the bottlenose dolphin population perished from dolphin pox in three months.

By now colder waters should have initiated the dolphins migration to warmer waters. As they approach their winter home, it is hoped they will not infect even larger schools of animals.

If this dilemma had been caused by pollution, combative measures could have been implemented. Unfortunately, the viral infection may present an untreatable situation. Scientists hope that the epidemic will run its course and end as quickly as it surfaced.

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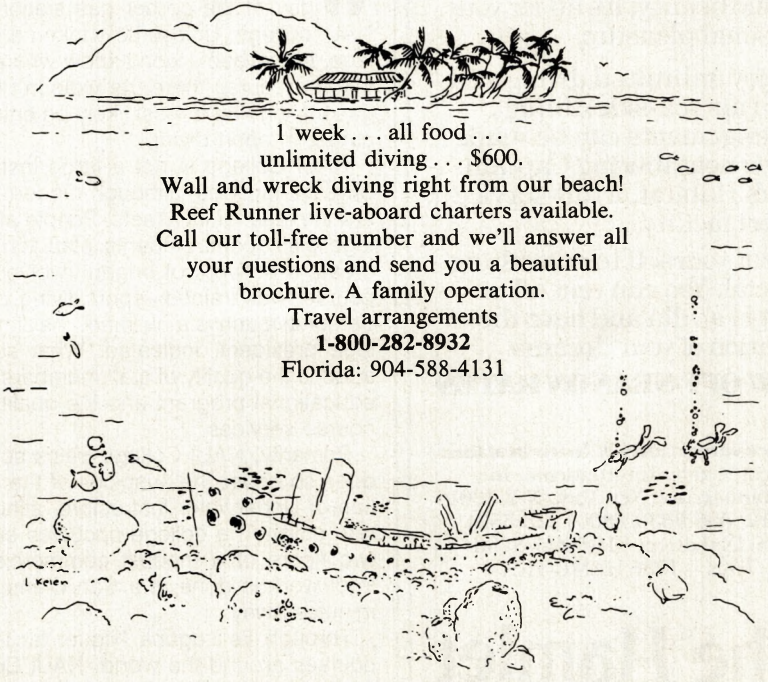
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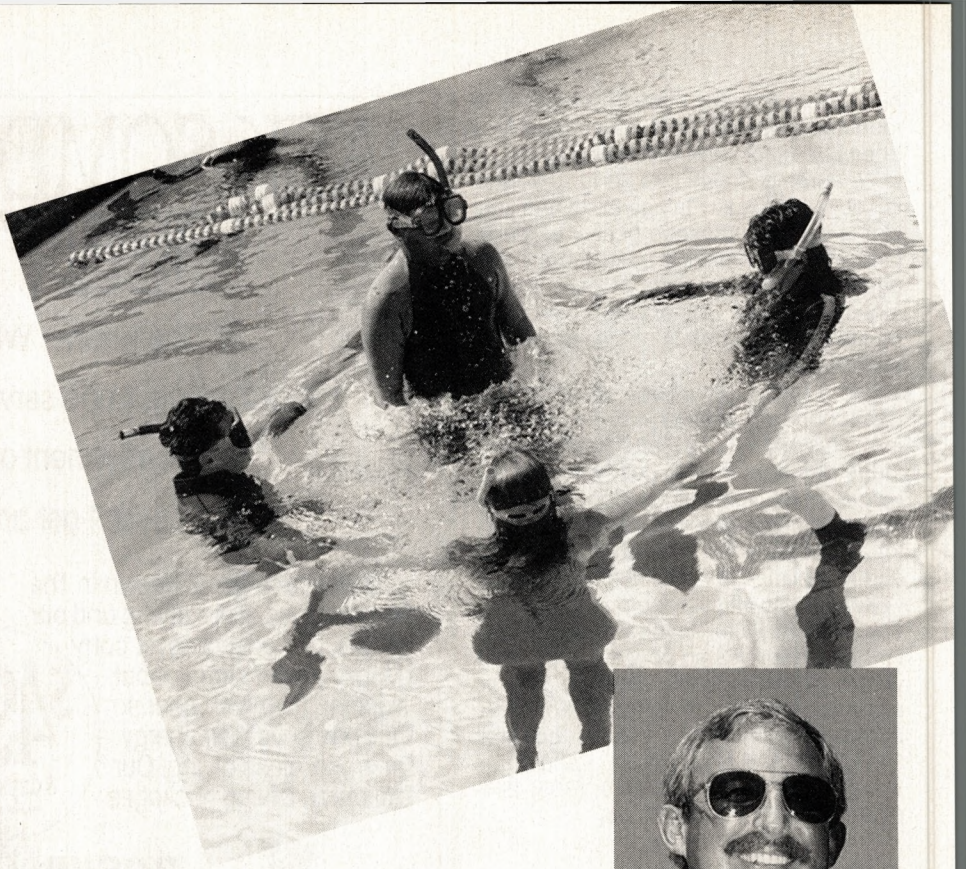
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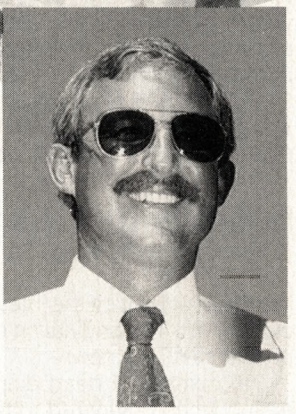
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NAUI College

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Jim Hicks

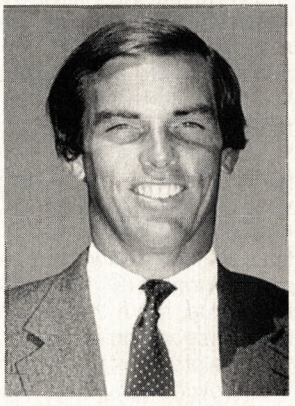
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JIM WALKER

When you arrive in Laguna Niguel, don't ask the guy at the corner gas station for directions to NAUI college. Unless he's taken a course at the college, he probably won't know where it is. And, if he'd taken a course there, he wouldn't be working at the gas station—he'd most likely be enjoying a rewarding career in sport diving.

NAUI College is not a large institution. In fact, its physical facilities, although modern and comfortable, are the least of its assets. People are what NAUI College is all about: Students, staff and former graduates create a network of bright, involved, caring—and, of course, well trained—sport diving professionals. The personal touch is a hallmark. As Jim Hicks, NAUI College president, indicated: What sets NAUI College apart is the quality of staff members, the quality of the educational program and the quality of pre and post course services.

Primarily, NAUI College trains scuba instructors. It does so under the auspices of the National Association of Underwater Instructors, although it is a separate entity. The college occupies suites of rooms on two floors of a modest commercial office building. Pool work is done at a San Clemente City pool just minutes away.

Through its Laguna Niguel facility and extension courses around the world, NAUI College trained approximately 40 percent of the new instructors certified by NAUI this year. International certifications were up 100 percent over last year, and the number of gradu-



Curt Pihl



Cathy Dean

ates of the college's Professional Instructor Course increased nearly 45 percent.

These statistics indicate students are finding what they need at NAUI College to give them a good start in a career in sport diving. However, these numbers might be misleading. NAUI College is not an instructor mill. There's no "college" atmosphere, either. In my visits there, I've found small groups of bright people being quietly molded by dedicated professionals into dedicated professionals. It's no secret the college seeks successful, goal-oriented individuals to become students.

Typically, NAUI College classes run three to six students per instructor, although this isn't a fixed ratio. Students at the college can't help but get to know each other and the college staff.

NAUI College is approved by the State of California for post secondary education. It offers six core courses and several specialty certifications. These include: Ten Week Professional Instructor Course; Total Instructor Training Course (two weeks); Instructor Training Course (nine days); Weekend Instructor Training course (five to seven weekends); Divemaster Course (four days); and Diving Rescue Techniques Course (two to three days). Crossover courses are offered for instructors from other certification agencies and extension ITCs are offered at locations around the world.

Two new specialty courses offered this year are: NAUI/Nikon (co-sponsored by NAUI and Nikon), a full underwater photography course; and NAUI/Sony (co-sponsored by NAUI and Sony), a full underwater video course.

The Ten Week Professional Instructor course trains students in all phases of sport diving from teaching to store management. It provides graduates with the tools to begin a *career* in sport diving. More than 30 sub courses are covered in the pro course, including: NAUI diving instructor, resort divemastering, first aid, CPR, emergency procedures, equipment repair, compressor operations, search and recovery, light salvage, marine biology and securing a job. As Curt Pihl, college marketing consultant, told me, "There's so much more we can offer in a 10 week course." And, while Pro Course graduates and other instructors may get their first jobs at similar levels, this extra training becomes most valuable in the long term career picture. (The 10 week course will be extended to 12 weeks beginning in January.)

The people aspects of NAUI College become apparent from your first telephone call. Office manager Cathy Dean will carefully guide you through a description of the courses, tuition, dates and prerequisites. Knowledgeable and very personable, she can then assist you with arrangements for housing or financial aid, where appropriate. Since she has helped set up these programs, she knows all the details. As Cathy says, "My first job is to make the student's stay as

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NAUI COLLEGE

pleasant as possible—without stress from outside hassles."

With regard to financial assistance, two types are available, both with private lenders. Many students will qualify for loans covering 50 percent of their tuition. These are at interest rates way below market level. Other students may qualify for consumer loans (up to $25,000) at typical interest rates.

With regard to short term housing, Cathy has coordinated with a brand new hotel near the college to offer students reduced rates on accommodations. On the other hand, Pro Course students have the option to stay in an attractive apartment complex only five minutes away—again at excellent rates.



Opening page, top: Instructor George Bodinar demonstrates a surface dive. Above: The office building housing NAUI College.

After the office and administrative staff members have settled you into the college (and probably before), you'll meet the instructors. These people have been carefully selected. They are not only fully capable of teaching scuba instructors, in several instances they have experience on the NAUI Headquarters national training staff and have years of experience in the sport diving industry. Aside from expertise, NAUI College instructors exhibit the same qualities expected of their graduates: professionalism, adaptability and a caring attitude.

On a recent visit to the college, I had the opportunity to observe George Bodinar and Blake Rumsey conducting pool training exercises. The sessions were relaxed and slow paced, with each student practicing techniques until he or she not only could accomplish each task, but could also demonstrate this skill properly to others.

A large part of the success of NAUI College is owing to former graduates. These alumni not only recommend the college to prospective students after they are in the field, many of them serve as staff interns for a short period after graduation. This gives them the opportunity to hone their instructor skills. Being fresh out of class, themselves, it also gives them a unique perspective on what students need.

The curriculum at NAUI College is designed to produce thinking instructors who posses the traits necessary for success in the industry. New this year are videotapes of each student's perfor-

mance of certain techniques. These allow the student to observe his or her strong and weak points and make improvements. As Jim Hicks said, "We're trying to provide students with the opportunity to take an active rather than passive role in their instruction."

While proper training of instructor candidates is of paramount importance at NAUI College, of equal importance is maintaining a close relationship with them before, during and after training. According to Curt Pihl, "It remains our most effective work—one on one counseling and developing a personal strategy for each student." Jim Hicks explained, "Making students dive instructors is just phase one. Phase two is our post course service."

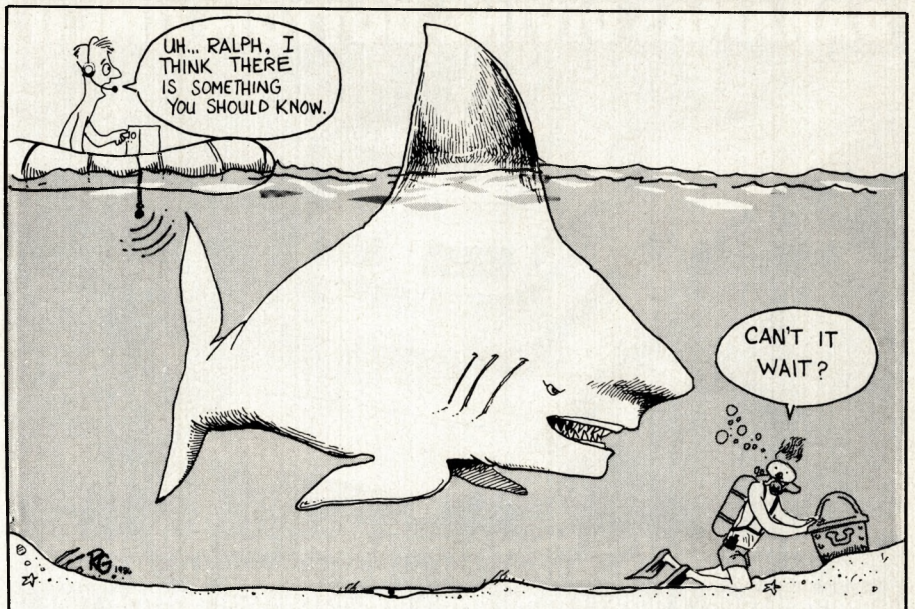
This service can take many forms, including consultation on career goals, resumes, business operations, capital management and more. Graduates know how to market their talents. Emphasis is currently being placed on the rapidly opening possibilities in retail management. While becoming a resort instructor is certainly a viable option, as Curt Pihl stated, "We've tried to tell students there is another side to the industry."

Free lifetime career counseling is one of the benefits NAUI College graduates receive. This entails more than merely reading graduates a list of potential jobs over the phone. If requested, a student's resume will be sent to all NAUI facilities. While jobs in the most desirable resort areas may require the graduate to actively seek them out, other areas of the industry (especially in retail management) contact the college looking for graduates. Job orders are rapidly increasing. These potential employment listings are not only available to current students, but are mailed to past graduates as well, providing they are registered with the counseling office.

Past graduates who have worked for a time, but are considering a job change, are encouraged to contact the college counseling office. There may be trends in the industry and job opportunities available of which they aren't aware. Input from these field-seasoned professionals is highly regarded, too. Current and future students can greatly benefit from their experiences.

While NAUI College continues to grow, the staff is dedicated to maintaining its personal attention to students and service oriented atmosphere. As Jim Hicks said, "We want to give more than instruction to students." Future plans lean toward more specialty certifications and more emphasis on personal marketing.

For information and a brochure write to: NAUI College, 27402 Camino Capistrano, Suite 103, Laguna Niguel, California 92677. You can call Cathy Dean toll free outside of California at (800) 423-7095. In California you can call collect to (714) 582-0186 or toll free to (800) 227-6663.



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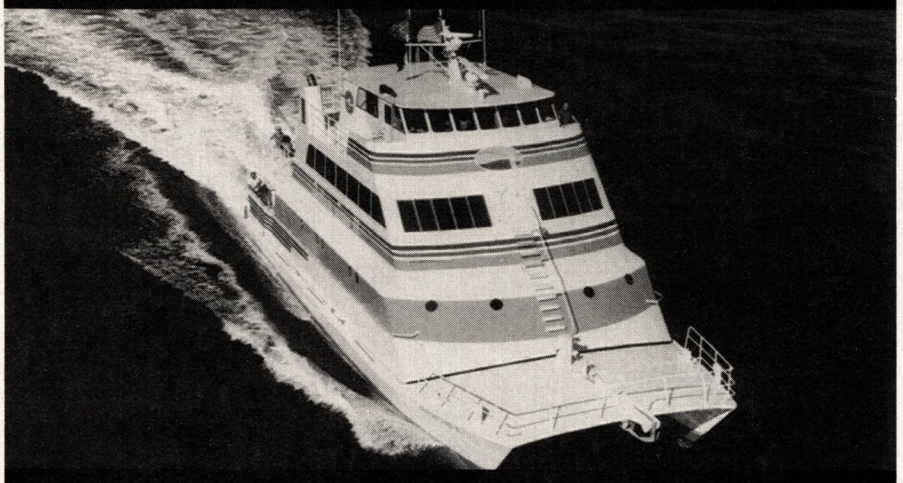
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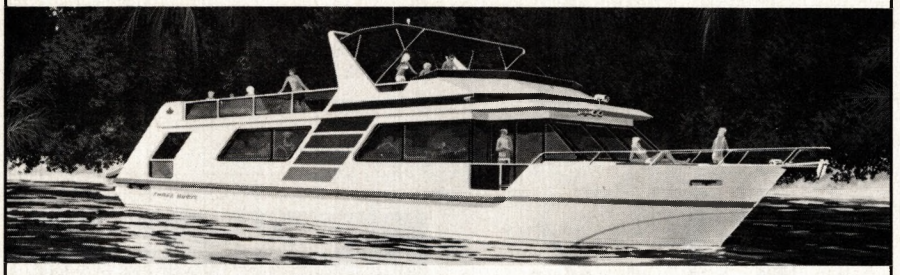
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MICROWAVING SEAFOOD

(Continued from Page 18)

eral guide, allow four minutes per pound of fish. When microwaving whole fish, slash the skin in several places to prevent bursting. If possible, turn large fish/steaks over once during cooking, reverse lapping the thinner pieces. If you have a large fish that won't fit straight into your cooking dish, just curve it around: But remember, you won't be able to straighten it once it's cooked! You may wish to roll thin fillets, which will allow you to cook several more in the dish. Juices of salmon and halibut steaks tend to coagulate on the top of the fish. This can be eliminated by placing paper towels in the baking dish to absorb excess juices, laying the fish on top of them and turning the fish over before serving. Flounder should be microwaved on a trivet since it is extremely moist.

Whole fish, small fish and fish steaks should be microwaved at 70 percent power (medium high) for six to nine minutes per pound. Fillets are cooked at 100 percent power (high) from three and one-half to six minutes per pound. The simplest recipe is to arrange fish in the baking dish, brush with melted butter or lemon juice, cover with wax paper and rotate after half the cooking time. Let it stand, covered, two to three minutes and serve. Since all fish have different thicknesses, this will affect your cooking times. Check your dish frequently for best results. Since the power wattage varies among microwave oven models and brands, this, too, will affect following any strict cooking times. Once you've cooked a fish dish, note in your own cookbook the time needed and amount cooked.

Steaming fish is quite easy. Place fish in a baking dish and cover with a dampened paper towel. Rotate the dish after microwaving half the alotted time. Continue until done or you may wish to "scallop" the fish at this point. To do this, spread crumbs over the fillets and pour in cream.

Clams can be microwaved on high three to five and one-half minutes per pound (12-15 clams). First, scrub the outside of the shells, discarding any broken or open clams. Soak in salted water for at least three hours to clean. Any open or floating clams should be discarded. Rinse and drain. On high, microwave one-half cup water in a two quart casserole until boiling. Add the clams, covering with wax paper. Stir once and microwave only until the clams open. The same procedure is done for mussels (one pound equals approximately 20).

Lobster tails are deliciously done quite easily. Two tails (eight ounces each) are ready in 7-11 minutes, four tails in 11-15 minutes on 50 percent (medium) power.

In a baking dish, arrange shell-side down and brush with butter. Cover with plastic wrap, rotate at half the cooking time, and check for doneness when the lobster is firm and opaque. Let stand, covered, for two to three minutes.

Scallops and shrimp use 70 percent power (medium high) for five to eight minutes per pound. Arrange in a single layer, covered loosely with plastic wrap. Stir after half the cooking time and cook only until opaque. Let stand, covered, one to two minutes.

Fresh fish should be held in the coldest part of the refrigerator for not more than one to two days before cooking. When freezing fresh fish, wrap securely in freezer paper and/or bags, mark the date and, for best quality, use within six months. Cooked seafood should be placed in a covered container in the refrigerator and used within three to four days. If you freeze the cooked fish, do not hold longer than three months.

Proper handling of fish when thawing will avoid spoilage and food poisoning. Plan your meals to allow 18-24 hours per pound for refrigerator thawing. For quicker thawing, place individual packages under cold running water, allowing one to two hours per pound thawing time. Never thaw fish at room temperature or in warm water and never refreeze any type of fish or seafood. Fish portions and sticks should not be thawed before cooking. Be sure to thaw fillets or steaks that you intend to have breaded or stuffed. You can thaw one pound of fish in a microwave in three to four minutes; let stand five minutes or until thawed. The defrost setting is generally at low (30 to 40 percent) power.

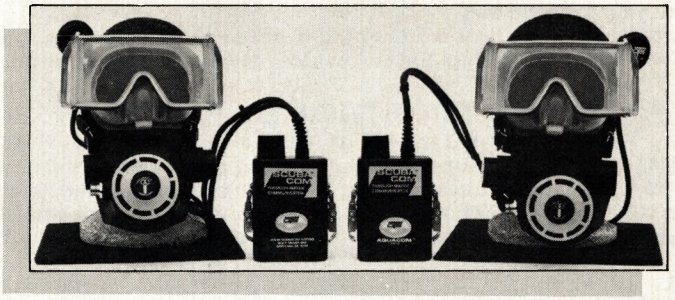
Many recipes calling for a specific fish allow the substitutions of others. The skill in transposing comes in knowing which are fatty and which are lean. When microwaving, use a lower power level and rotate the dish more often when cooking fatty fish. Fatty fish are classified as having more than five percent fat; here are some examples: amberjack, bass, bluefish, crevalle jack, fish roe, king mackerel, mullet, pompano, salmon, shad, Spanish mackerel, swordfish, trout and tuna. Lean fish having less than five percent fat are: all shellfish, catfish, cod, dolphin, flounder, grouper, haddock, halibut, ocean perch, pollock, sea bass, sea trout, scrod, shark, sheepshead, snappers, sole, tilefish and whiting.

Oysters will remain alive from seven to ten days if stored uniced in the refrigerator. Home freezing of oysters is not recommended, but commercially frozen are fine owing to the quick freezing method. Use frozen oysters within two months. When purchasing live oysters in the shell, 36 are enough to feed six people.

Scallops cannot close their shells tightly and consequently die soon after being taken from the water. For this reason scallops are always shucked immediately

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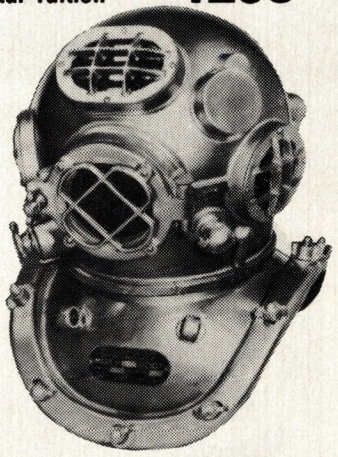
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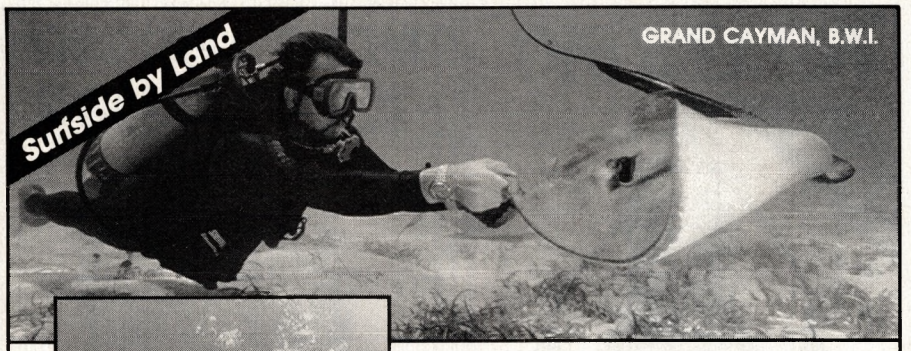
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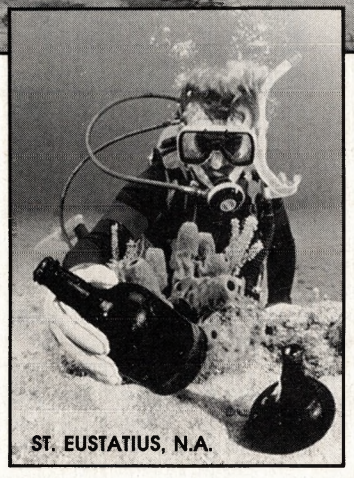
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MICROWAVING SEAFOOD

after being harvested and the meat is iced. They are best used the day of purchase, but can be iced for two days with little flavor loss or texture change. Raw frozen scallops can be held for three to four months. Scallops retain quality better if frozen raw since, once cooked, they lose moisture, texture and flavor.

MICROWAVED BLUEFISH WITH TANGY GLAZE

2 lbs. bluefish or other fish fillets, fresh or frozen
⅓ C margarine or butter, melted
⅓ C catsup
⅓ C frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
1 T prepared mustard
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. garlic salt
1 large bay leaf, crumbled

Thaw fish if frozen and cut into serving-size portions. Place fish in a single layer in a baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour over fillets; turn fish to coat evenly; cover. Marinate in refrigerator at least 30 minutes. Arrange fish skin side down and brush with sauce; cover with wax paper. Microwave on high for three and one-half to six minutes per pound, rotating the dish halfway through. Fish is done when it flakes and is opaque. Let stand one to two minutes. Serves six.

LETTUCE BAKED LOBSTER TAILS

4 lobster tails (½ lb. each) fresh or frozen
1 C melted butter, divided in half
¼ to ½ tsp. garlic powder
½ tsp. salt
Paprika
8-10 lettuce leaves, rinsed and drained

Thaw lobster if frozen. Cut off the undershell, leaving the tail fan and upper shell in place. Place lobster shell side down in baking dish, add garlic powder and salt to ½ cup butter and brush onto lobster meat; sprinkle with paprika. Cover tails completely with damp lettuce leaves and microwave 11-15 minutes on medium (50 percent power). Rotate dish halfway through. Cook until lobster meat is opaque white and tender. Discard lettuce leaves. Serve with remaining melted butter. Serves four.

Fresh shrimp should be cooked within one to two days. Two pounds raw uncooked shrimp will yield one pound cooked. Frozen raw shrimp maintains quality for six months, whereas home-frozen cooked shrimp begin to lose quality after one month.

When planning a party, allow one pound of whole fish per person, one-half pound of dressed fish and/or one-third pound of steaks or fillets. If a recipe re-

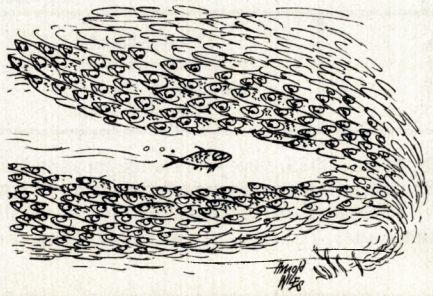
quires frequent handling of the fish as in chowders, soups or pickling, use a firm-textured fish such as red drum, grouper, jewfish and tilefish.

SEAFOOD HINTS

* Sprinkling fish with salt and pepper, generous amounts of lime or lemon juice and letting it stand in the refrigerator for several hours will improve the flavor.
* Leftover cooked fish can be used in salads, casseroles, chowders, recipes calling for canned or flaked fish or it may be frozen for future use.
* It is best to chill your hands and then rub on lemon juice before handling fish to avoid having the odor cling to them.
* Sprinkling salt over your fingers makes cleaning fish easier.
* After cooking fish, rinse hands and utensils in a strong saltwater solution, then wash with soap and water.
* Leaving fish soaking in water will extract the flavor and make the fish flabby.
* Cooking live lobster in the microwave oven is not recommended since death may not be immediate.

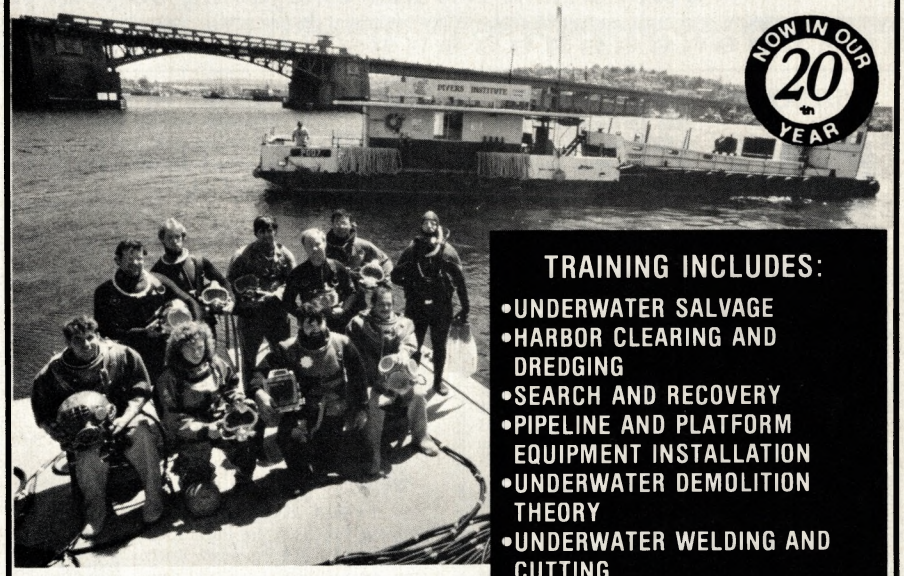
Now you can start using your microwave oven for more than just boiling water and heating leftovers! Actually, many of your favorite conventional recipes can be converted to a microwave recipe by using only three-quarters of the amount of liquid called for and calculating that only one-quarter of the suggested cooking time will be needed. Sauces, spices and flavorings you love can be used to cook your fish and seafood. Just remember to use microwave safe dishes, check frequently for doneness and, when it flakes and is opaque, it's ready to eat. Have fun discovering this new way of cooking seafood!

Editors' Note: Ms. Kilbride is a county home economist with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Readers throughout the United States can contact their own county Extension Service offices for more free information and pamphlets pertaining to specific fish or seafood relative to one's own locale. Recipes from the Florida Bureau of Seafood Marketing were adapted to microwave cooking. Readers may request a selection of conventional seafood cookery brochures by sending a self-addressed, stamped legal size envelope to: Seafood Recipe Brochures, 1214 N. University Dr., Plantation, Florida 33322.



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With 14 karat gold bezel. 1715 fleet salvage or the Concepcion. *1715 fleet* **$199.95.** *Concepcion - includes serial numbered certificate and book* **$249.95.**

14 Karat Gold Angelfish



1/2" long life like replica. Has loop for attaching to chain. **$42.95**

14 Karat Gold Shark Tooth



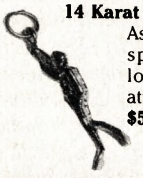
Approximately 1/2" long, this is truly life like! Has loop for attaching to chain. **$59.95**

14 Karat Gold Dolphins



Depicts dolphin with cub. Approximately 1/2" long. Has loop for attaching to chain. **$34.95**

14 Karat Gold Diver



Ascending diver with speargun. Over 1" long. Has loop for attaching to chain. **$59.95**

Holiday Package 1



Great equipment at a fantastic price! Rubber vented fins with open heel adjustable strap, rubber mask with tempered glass and double skirt, and a big bore snorkel. Great for SCUBA or snorkeling.
Retail $95.00

Sale $42.95

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As seen in Skin Diver

The go anywhere, do anything bag! Complete. Features include heavy duty construction, removable wheels, collapsible frame.
Retail $99.95.

Sale price $84.95

Holiday Package 2 - Save 50%!



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Berry Scuba also stocks Holiday greeting cards! This design and others available!

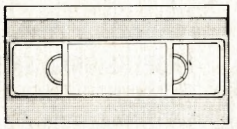
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SharpEye 58mm. Fits Nikonos 35 & 28mm lenses, Sony Video housing. **$49.95.**
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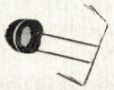


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Acclaimed by thousands for over four years, the **Whale Bag** is the ideal carry all for your delicate instruments and photography equipment! Spacious 1 ¼ cubic foot interior is padded for extra protection, and fits under an airplane seat! Includes wide adjustable shoulder strap. 18″ X 12″ X 10″. **$69.95**

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System 246. **$69.95**
Snap on 1:2 framer. **$25.95**
Use with your present 1:2 extension tube, or purchase a tube for only **$24.95**

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Sets available: **1:1** (life size), **1:2** (1/2 life size), and **1:3** (1/3 life size). For **2:1** (twice life size), stack the 1:1 & 1:2 tubes! 2:1 framer **$24.95.**

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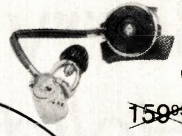
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FARMER JOHN With JACKET
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PLUSH LINED
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PARKWAY ATLAS REGULATOR
With LIFETIME WARRANTY
~~159.95~~ **109.95**

EXTRA SPECIAL



DELUXE EQUIPMENT BAG
Heavy-Duty Waterproof Nylon with padded handle, two end and one side expandable pockets.
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US SCUBA PROFESSIONAL BC JACKET
With BACK PACK And POWER INFLATOR
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7 3/4" polished blade, 6" scale, serrated back with massive butt cap. Sure-grip rubber handle.
Complete with sheath. **29.95**



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With MAX—DEPTH INDICATOR
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- BC JACKET With Power Inflator

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COMPETITION POWER FIN
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THERMO PLASTIC POWER FIN
Open heel vented fin
Colors: blue, pink, yellow or black
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With swivel mouthpiece
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GREETING CARDS

(Continued from Page 19)

most prolific sender of cards; I send them for any and all occasions. Every once in awhile I would find a card with a drawing depicting life underwater, but what I really wanted was a card with an actual photo, something showing the richness of colors and majesty of U/W vistas. After continuing to be disappointed by card shops and seeing nothing advertised in dive publications, I took matters into my own hands.

I commissioned my niece, Debra French Whorley, to design a very feminine seahorse to be used as my company's registered trademark. Stationery featuring the seahorse logo and notecards with U/W photos on them were the first products introduced early last year. Selecting photos to be used on the first notecards was supposed to have been an easy process—I planned to choose my four favorite shots. However, I found it difficult to narrow the selection to only four as I have at least 50 favorites! And, of course, since I have not stopped taking photos, the numbers continue to grow!

During the development of my product lines I have had the unique opportunity of having direct contact with my customers at various dive shows. This enabled me to listen to their suggestions and ideas for new products. At DEMA in 1986, where the notecards and stationery were first introduced, I talked with dive store owners about Christmas cards. I was pleased to hear their enthusiastic responses about the then proposed new product. I had not even produced the first Scuba Claus Christmas card yet and they were asking about personalization. I knew I was onto something! This interactive process of developing new products is important to me. Even though I may not implement the suggestions immediately, many will probably be used eventually.

Scuba Claus Christmas cards were successfully introduced in the October 1986 issues of SKIN DIVER Magazine and the leading dive newspaper as the second phase of the company's expansion to become the first U/W greeting card company. With the production of the 1987 cards, the line has been expanded again to provide birthday and get well cards and more notecards. The intent is to continue to increase the number of products offered until Captured Moments Photography becomes a full line greeting card company—of the U/W variety.

I receive many queries from other underwater photographers about using their photos on the cards. Because of my extensive files, I can only say I'll begin using photos from other photographers when I run out of my own favorites. One exception to this may happen next year in a set of notecards with a special theme, but

Dive, dive, dive!

Aqua Vision
Aquatic 3 hsg. f/Nik. F-3/Canon F-1 959.00
New! Capsule 10 hsg. f/Sony Handycam . 759.00

EWA Rain Covers
Rain cover f/Bolex H-16 Reflex w/POE-4 115.00*
Rain cover f/Beaulieu 1028, XL60, 6008S, 6008P 115.00*
Watersound-VHS f/walkie talkies 26.00
Cape rain hood f/SLR 9.95
Hurricane hood f/SLR 39.00

EWA "Master Series" Underwater Housings
U-F f/35mm SLR w/winder 70.00
U-FXP f/35mm SLR w/winder, strobe, or zoom lens 75.00
U-FX SLR w/small zoom & top mount flash .. 88.00
U-FPN f/large SLR (eg. Nikon F-3) and large motor drives & lenses up to 90mm ... 88.00
U-FGM f/SLR w/ tall strobe and motor or long lens up to 100mm 88.00
U-MZ f/Bronica ETRS w/40-75mm, or Mamiya 1000S/645 w/55-100mm lens 88.00*
U-AL f/disc camera 28.00
U-AFM f/compact autofocus camera 39.00

EWA-U/W Housings for Video Cameras
U-VB f/Beta camcorder 130.00
U-VJ f/Video movie (GRC-1) 130.00
U-VSAF f/Sony CCD-V8/V8AF 142.00
U-VCAF f/VHS camcorder-Panasonic 142.00
U-VM Sony handycam 123.00
U-VHAF f/VHS camcorder-Hitachi 142.00
U-VFAF f/Kyrocera Fine 8 136.00
U-VCN f/Canon VME1 136.00
U-VJC f/JVC GR-C7 142.00
U-VJAF f/JVC CR-C2 136.00
U-CMF f/Olympus VX403, VX404 149.00
U-VMBF f/Olympus 801, Nikon Action 8 136.00
U-VMK f/Miinolta CR8000S AF 136.00

Fuji
P-2 Movie camera & housing 99.00*

Green Things
New! System 246 for 35mm UWN w/wide lens adapter (28mm), 1 f-stop ext. tube w/framer (1:2), & 1:4 add-on lens w/framer 249.00
Marine Eye (28mm) adapter f/35 UWN 65.95
Wide Eye (21mm) adapter f/35 UWN 224.95
Fish Eye adapter f/35 UWN (150° cropped top & bottom) and 28 UWN (160° circular image) 224.95
Close Eye V w/framer f/35 UWN 65.95
Close Eye V w/framer f/28UWN 65.95
Close Eye II add-on lens (12-19.5 ") f/35 UWN 49.50
Close Eye III add-on lens (7-3/4-10") f/35 UWN 49.50
Close-up wand (recommended f/CE II and CE III) 15.95
Close & Wide set w/extension tube (1:3), framer (1:3), close-up lens w/framer (1:2) & close focus 28mm adapter (max. 3-1/2 ft.) 187.50

Hanimex
Amphibian 110 camera 89.50
Macro Lens w/wand for 110 61.50
CU-II Close-up lens (2 ft.) 40.50
Amphibian 35mm camera 179.00
Pkg. w/Amphibian 35, univ. slave strobe, and case with die cut foam 295.00
Universal slave strobe for 110/35 98.00

Helix Auto-Marine II Housing w/infrared autofocus regulator & viewfinder
HUP-010 Housing f/Nikon One Touch L35AF-II 99.00
Helix/Nikon package includes reconditioned Nikon One Touch w/Helix housing 208.50
HUP-USS Helix Universal slave strobe w/arm f/Hanimex/Sea & Sea 110 or 35mm, Helix Auto marine housing & Ike disc & trim case 98.00

Helix Dive Lights
HUP-200 Helix photo dive light 14.95
HUP-201 Helix photo dive light w/krypton lamp 19.95
HUP-205 Helix mini photo dive light 9.75
HUP-P0A High Intensity conversion kit f/HUP-200 5.95

Helix EO
HUP-EOII Helix 6" EO to Nikonos I/III 63.50
HUP-EOIII Helix 6" EO to Nikonos III/IV/V ... 63.50
HEO-EXI 10' male/female EO 107.00
HEO-EX2 20' male/female EO 116.00
HUP-FF2 EO #59 female bulkhead (1/2") . 76.50
HUP-FF3 EO #59 female bulkhead (3/4") . 76.50
HUP-MDO Dummy EO male connector protector 5.95
HUP-FDO Dummy EO female connector protector 11.95
EO "Y" connector (specify MMF, MFF) 195.00

Helix Extension Tube System
Basic extension tube set w/2 tubes and 3 framers for 35mm UWN (2:1, 1:1, 1:2) 86.00
Basic extension tube set w/2 tubes and 3 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1, 1:1.8, 1:2.75) 86.00
Deluxe extension tube set w/3 tubes and 4 framers for 35mm UWN (2:1,1:1,1:2, 1:3) 120.00
Master extension tube set w/3 tubes and 6 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1.8, 1:2.75) and 35mm UWN (2:1,1:1, 1:2, 1:3) 154.00
Super Master extension tube set w/3 tubes and 7 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1, 1:1.8, 1:2.75) and 35mm UWN (2:1, 1:1, 1:2, 1:3) 171.00
Upgrade kit for Helix or Subsea Basic set to Super Master set w/1 tube and 4 framers 86.00
1:1 tube w/framer for 35mm UWN 39.50
1:2 tube w/framer for 35mm UWN 39.50
1:3 tube w/framer for 35mm UWN 39.50
1:1.8 tube w/framer for 28mm UWN 39.50
1:2.75 tube w/framer for 28mm UWN 39.50
Framer only (specify lens and ratio) 25.00

Helix Add-On Underwater Adapt. f/red tube (2/3 f-stop)
Close-up lens adapter w/framer 65.95
Close focus wide angle adapter 65.95

New Helix Add-On Underwater Adapt. f/green tube (1 f-stop)
Wide angle adapter (28mm) for 35mm UWN and green tube (focus 11" to infinity) 135.00
Close-up wide angle adapter w/framer (1:4) f/35mm UWN and green tube 82.50

Helix Land Use Framers
Land use framer set of 3 (1:1,1:2, and 1:3) for 35mm UWN and Helix extension tubes 59.00
Surface use framer (1:1) for 35mm UWN and Helix blue tube 25.00
Surface use framer (1:2) for 35mm UWN and Helix green tube 25.00
Surface use framer (1:3) for 35mm UWN and Helix red tube 25.00

Helix Miscellaneous
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Underwater T-shirt 5.95
Flipper key ring 1.95
Audible water detector kit 29.95
Audible water detector w/LED 39.95
Helix O-ring set f/Nikonos I/II (HOK-II) 5.95
Helix O-ring set f/Nikonos III (HOK-III) 5.95
Helix O-ring set f/Nikonos V (HOK-V) 5.95
Helix O-ring extractor tool kit 11.95

Helix/Kamba
Helix Kamba housing f/ A series Canon w/winder 299.50*
Helix/Kamba package includes Canon AV-1, Canon 28mm f2.8, and winder A 445.00*
Internal viewfinder f/Canon 53.50
Aquaflash mount flash bracket 29.90

Helix Cases
Helix accessory tote (9x4x5") 8.95
Helix equipment case w/die cut foam f/Hanimex 35mm & slave strobe (14-1/2x9x4-1/2") 23.95
Helix equipment case w/foam (18x13x8") 44.95

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HL-7000U/W Halogen movie/video light, 7.7 AH/12V, w/charger (req. optional lamp) (50W/145min., 100W/75 min., 175W/40min.) 799.00

Ikelite
Modular video light (req opt. charger) 187.00
150 TTL Pkg. w/quick charger, arm, TTL sync cord, tray/handle, rapid advance lever, and case 599.00
225 TTL Pkg. as above but with Substrobe 225TTL 655.00
SLR-AF Super Eye Housing (specify camera) 269.95

Morris Photo
K-133 Underwater flashlight w/spare halogen lamp 34.95
K-132 Underwater flashlight w/krypton lamp 29.95
Aqua F-III TTL U/W flash w/arm, tray, and TTL cord 269.50

Nikonos V
10072 Nikonos V, w/35mm f2.5 UWN w/spare O-ring, grease and battery 439.00**
10074 Nikonos V, w/28mm f3.5 UWN w/spare O-ring, grease and battery 559.00**

Nikonos Lenses
10315 15mm f2.8 959.00
10314 20mm f2.8 419.00
10310 28mm f3.5 IC 225.00
10311 35mm f2.5 IC 105.00
10512 80mm f4 IC 215.00
10313 28mm f2.8 LC f/land use 169.00

Nikonos Viewfinders
15mm V.F., UW use only 209.00
20/28mm V.F., UW use 129.00
28mm sportsfinder 16.00
35/80mm sportsfinder 18.00
80mm viewfinder, topside use only for Nikonos IV, V 76.00

Nikonos Speedlight SB-102
10102 Speedlight SB-102 629.00
10101 SB-102 head only w/TTL sync cord & diffuser 509.00

Nikonos Speedlight SB-103
10103 Speedlight SB-103 339.00
10104 SB-103 head only w/TTL sync cord and diffuser 219.00

Helix Special Nikonos Packages
Package 1A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 479.00**
Package 1B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Helix basic extension tube set, dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 555.00**
Package 1C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN & Marine Eye (28mm adapter) 489.00**
Package 1D: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Marine Eye (28mm) adapter & Close Eye V w/framer (1:5) 539.00**
Package 2A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mmf2.5 UWN, Aqua F-III TTL (w/arm, tray & sync cord),dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 748.00**
Package 2B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aqua F-III TTL (w/arm, tray & sync cord), Helix basic extension tube set, dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 824.00*
Package 2C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aqua F-III TTL (w/arm, tray & sync cord), Marine Eye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5), dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 848.00**
Package 3A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings) & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 809.00**
Package 3B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings), Helix basic extension tube set & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 885.00**
Package 3C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-ring), Marine Eye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5) & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 909.00**
Package 4A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 905.00**
Package 4B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) Helix basic extension tube set, dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 980.00**
Package 4C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28TTL(w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) MarineEye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5), dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 1005.00**
Package 4D: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) Nikonos close-up outfit (basic), dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 1050.00**

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Helix/Oceanic Underwater TTL Photopak I
- OS-3000TTL strobe, charger, TTL sync cord
- ARM-021 arm,
- NPG-105S camera tray
- case w/foam
- FREE light holder
- FREE dive light
- FREE Oceanic "Splash" shorty wet suit (2.5mm) w/long sleeves 799.95

Helix/Oceanic UnderwaterPhotopak II
- OS-3000 Master strobe
- TTL sync cord
- case w/foam
- ARM-021 arm
- NPG-105S camera tray
- FREE light holder
- FREE dive light
- FREE Oceanic "Splash" shorty wet suit (2.5mm) w/long sleeves 859.50

Helix/Oceanic Underwater TTL Photopak III
- OS-3003 manual strobe
- sync cord
- ARM-021 arm,
- NPG tray
- case w/ foam
- FREE light holder
- FREE dive light
- FREE Oceanic "Splash" shorty wet suit (2.5mm) w/long sleeves 736.50

Pelican
Pelicase, 12-1/4x9-1/4x5-1/2" 45.00
Pelican case, 17-1/2x11-7/8x6-1/2" 65.00
King Pelican case, 22x17x8" 105.00

Sea & Sea Packages
Sea & Sea/Helix package: includes 110 camera & Helix slave strobe 220.00
Sea & Sea/Helix package: includes PC-35/M & Helix slave strobe 297.00
Sea & Sea/Helix package: includes PC-35/M & Helix slave strobe & HUP-901 case 317.95

Sekonic
L-164B Marine Meter II 124.00
L-158WH Housing and meter 49.00
L-188WH Housing and meter (battery powered) 64.00

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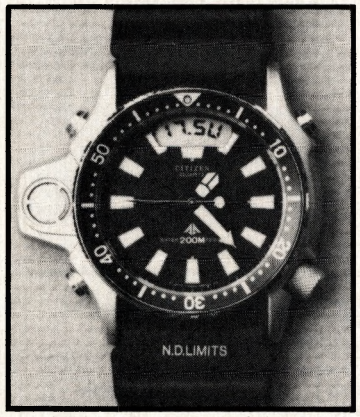
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GREETING CARDS

another photographer is part of this project. He is Scuba Claus.

Clark E. McCaslin portrays Scuba Claus, and he is much more than just the "man in the red suit." His technical assistance and ideas are invaluable. Clark is also an excellent photographer and, believe me, that makes him more than just a model. It is important to have someone on the other side of the lens who understands the special problems of U/W photography. And, it is even more critical to what we do, because Clark can't always see what's going on; at least one-half of the time the Santa beard works its way in front of his mask, obstructing his view.

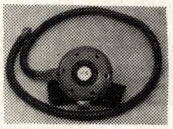
There have been challenges in producing the Scuba Claus line. The 1986 cards used a Christmas tree as one of the props. During a test photo session we discovered most of the ornaments sold for normal use did not travel well and were damaged by water, so I had to find materials to make unbreakable ornaments that would sparkle underwater. Besides having to wire the tree together to keep it in one piece, the ornaments had to be tied individually to the tree, keeping in mind which ones tended to float or sink so they could be tied tightly in the appropriate direction. This was some project in itself since there were more than 300 handmade ornaments on the tree. With the tree decorated in Lexington prior to flying to the islands, the only task left to the last minute was the attachment of the lights. Small chemical light sticks were placed on the tree during the boat ride to the dive site. As expected, the tree was extremely buoyant and required about 20 pounds of weight—camouflaged in the tree skirt—to keep it in place.

The tree was not the only prop requiring additional weight. One of the worst floaters was Santa's hat. For some reason it looked funny seeing Santa's hat sticking straight up in the water and floating off his head at that! The final solution proved to be a combination of tricks. The hat was weighted by sewing small lead curtain weights into its tip. This helped some, but cable tying the wig, beard and hat into one piece was the only way we found to consistently keep Santa's hat on his head. Also, Clark, who normally requires very little weight, suddenly found himself needing to don additional weight to counter increased buoyancy owing to the Santa suit.

Speaking of the suit, it was made especially for a scuba diving Santa. The modified red sweat suit has proved durable in saltwater and has provided the flexibility we need. It is large enough to allow a wetsuit to be worn and to safely accommodate normal scuba equipment under it. With holes in all the right places, the

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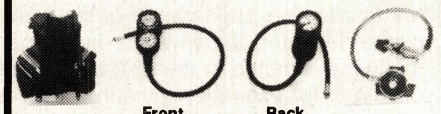


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Super Special 21



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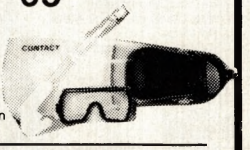


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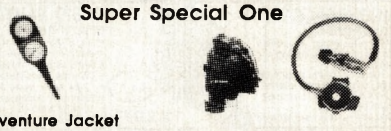
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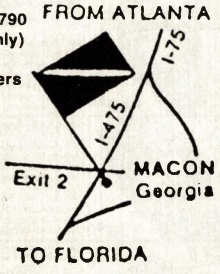
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GREETING CARDS

tank can be secured easily and the BC can be inflated with minimal effort. Clark and I are both scuba instructors, so the most important consideration for me in making the suit was his safety.

Another glitch surfaced during this year's photo session. In order to allow me to alter the appearance of the Santa suit underwater, the white fur is not permanently attached to the suit, but can be moved if, for example, any surge causes it to look out of place through the lens. One of this year's cards features Scuba Claus being pulled through the water behind an U/W propulsion vehicle. We learned very quickly the detachable fur was both an asset and a liability! The movement through the water caused the fur to be pulled off, showing part of the white fasteners on the red suit. The whole suit has since been dyed red so if we do something similar in the future and the fur pulls away from the suit, the now red fasteners will not show.

The whole process of a Scuba Claus photo session has generated many questions. Everyone wants to know how it was done. Because of this interest, we made a video during the last photo session and it has been received very well at shows such as Our World-Underwater and Seaspace. The video begins with Clark being transformed into Scuba Claus, has a segment covering the actual 1987 photo session from aboard the *Cayman Aggressor II* (slides for two of this year's cards were taken during this video dive), and then ends with Clark and me talking briefly about how we came to work together and about the company in general. After viewing the video, divers frequently comment what a good sport Clark is to portray Santa. Yes, he is a good sport, but more importantly, he is an outstanding diver. Working in costume with props U/W is quite different from vacation sport diving!

Throughout the development of these products, it has been important to me to provide a line of gift items for under $10. I want to reach the new diver who might be a college student on a budget as well as the seasoned diver who might not be as concerned with cost. The retail price on the seahorse stationery is $8 per set of 16 embossed sheets and envelopes and 16 plain sheets; the first set of notecards is packaged with two of each of the four cards and eight envelopes and retails for $6. Last year's Scuba Claus Christmas cards cost $9.95 for 25 cards and envelopes. In effect, there has been a price decrease since last year on these cards. While 25 cards still cost $9.95, this year, in response to customer suggestions, quantity discounts are being offered for 50 or more cards, and cards may now be purchased individually.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S BLUES
AND THE SHOT OF A LIFETIME

BY HILLARY HAUSER

When Ernest Brooks, Jr. returned to his hometown after a long photographic diving expedition recently, he had this encouraging word for all photographers: Even the best in the business sometimes miss the shots of a lifetime.

Brooks, who heads the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California, steered the institution's vessel into the Santa Barbara harbor after a three and one-half month expedition to the Sea of Cortez.

Once the *Just Love* was tied to the docks, Brooks talked about the highlight of the trip—a humpback whale leaping high out of the water, just inches from the inflatable boat that carried a team of photographers. Trouble is, no one had a camera. "They thought I had a camera and I thought they did," said Brooks. "From that moment on, none of us let our cameras out of our sight."

About this photographer's nightmare, Brooks remained philosophical and smiling. The trip, he said, was a huge success, in spite of the big moment everyone got caught with their cameras down.

The homecoming for Brooks and his crewmates was fit for conquering heroes. As Brooks piloted the *Just Love* toward the accommodations dock in the harbor, a guitar/flute duo played a Mexican song and a welcome home banner was held aloft by enthusiastic well wishers.

At the foot of the dock, champagne was uncorked and a palm tree-studded cake was cut. As the tanned expeditioners disembarked, wives embraced returning husbands and friends slapped friends on the back.

The expedition, which left Santa Barbara March 4, recreated John Steinbeck's voyage in the area, immortalized by the author in his classic *Log from the Sea of Cortez*. "We stopped every place along the way that he did," Brooks said. "We visited fascinating people—the Americans who live there—took in the tranquillity of the Sea of Cortez and saw the lovely sunsets."

The humpback whale incident took place near Isla la Partida, about 150 miles north of Cabo San Lucas. Brooks and a party of divers were exploring the area U/W and they had returned to the beach. In the distance, the whale leaped out of the water, in an action called breaching. "We raced for two miles to get to this vision," Brooks said. "Then we discovered we didn't have a camera."

The whale breached about 15 times during a one-half hour period, he said. Each time, the mammal leaped 25 to 30 feet out of the water, eyeing the cameraless photographers on its way down. The photograph that got away, Brooks said, would have "frozen the glistening water that poured off the whale's head."

Peter Skinner, public relations director for Brooks Institute, said the crew gathered a whale-sized collection of photos during the trip. These will be displayed in a Brooks Institute exposition, he said.

Brooks, Skinner, Glenn Allen and Paul Nibecker also kept journals—for a book the institute plans to publish on the expedition. The book, Brooks said, will be a "visual adventure—what it means to pull up stakes for three and one-half months."

One of the "most fantastic" spots visited during the voyage, Brooks said, was the newly created volcanic island of Tortuga. "Everything was fresh," he said. "It was like being on a totally different planet." Diving photographers documented the U/W life of the area, too. "It was a mix," Brooks said. "There were species of fish such as we have off California, together with tropical fishes. "There would be a sheephead side by side with a beautiful angelfish. There was sargasso everywhere and a lot of plankton."

Brooks said he was surprised at the development of homes and condominiums in the Guaymas area, but along the Baja coast the scenery is "like 30 years ago."

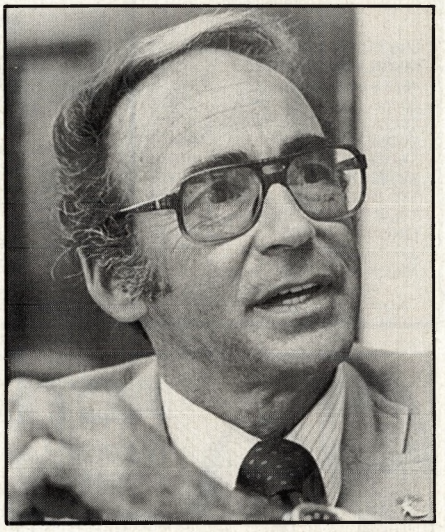
During the three months the *Just Love* cruised the Sea of Cortez, the permanent crew was occasionally augmented by about 35 visiting adventurers and photographers. Priscilla Skinner, Peter's wife, stayed on for the full time the vessel explored the Sea of Cortez. An administrative assistant at Digital Sound Corporation, she calmed the rough emotional waters that occasionally surfaced as "cabin fever" during the expedition. She said she occasionally cooked ("a woman is a bit more creative in the galley than a man"), functioned as an "in-between" person (I'd hear the gripe on one side, then the other side, then put it together"), and shaved her legs on deck. "You're in a confined space, so you really have to work together," she said.

Brooks, who was joined by his wife, Pat and children during the adventure, said his immediate plans are to "take a vacation. I'm looking forward to staying home, being with my wife and family and working on this book," he said. Getting away for a full three and one-half months, however, will be a highlight for Brooks for some time to come. "It's amazing what you can do without newspapers—oops, excuse me—television and social information," Brooks said. "I haven't worn a watch in months."

photo/Rafael Maldonado



photo/Bob Ponce



Above: Ernest Brooks, Jr. Left: Brooks Institute of Photography's vessel *Just Love* returns to Santa Barbara harbor after a three and one-half month expedition retracing John Steinbeck's voyage to the Sea of Cortez. During the trip, Brooks and the other photographers aboard missed a rare shot of a humpback whale breaching.



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GREETING CARDS

If I had to describe this whole endeavor in just a few words, I would have to say it is my attempt to make a living doing what I enjoy the most—my photographic relationship with waters filled with moments to be captured on film by one who has had, and continues to have, a love affair with diving and the sea. While I truly enjoy the more traditional and serious forms of U/W photography as displayed on my notecards, working underwater with costumes and props for Scuba Claus and some of the other cards adds another dimension. It is fun, both during the photo sessions and afterward when I sit back and think about the humor of it all: Scuba Claus?!

To receive a free color catalogue including complete information for ordering, contact Carol L. Rompf, Captured Moments Photography, 1730 Normandy Road, Lexington, KY 40504-2225; telephone (606) 278-5309.

WRECK FACTS

(Continued from Page 16)

ment had money to squander on such endeavors. The National Park Service can't get its act together on land, much less in the water! (See Wreck Facts, June 1987.)

Are you a collector of old bottles? If so, perhaps you can help John Joyal, Haverhill, Massachusetts who writes: "John Renda found a bottle in Gloucester Harbor. It is almost 14 inches tall, two and one-half inches wide, with a thin neck and light blue in color. A round glass emblem on the bottle bears the letters I.R. Priv. Prem. Fab. G. Luxardo. The letters curve around an eagle which has Zara beneath it." If you can shed light on this discovery, write to John at 512 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA 01830. John and his buddies also have brought up Canadian beer bottles and lots of brass from the wreck of the *Empire Knight* and a 40 pound steam collector from the steamship *Kiowa*, sunk in Boston Harbor.

Marty Meylach's 1971 classic, *Diving to a Flash of Gold*, has been reprinted in a paperback edition. Originally written in collaboration with Miami Herald reporter Charles Whithead, the book chronicles the true tales of salvors who worked the 1733 Spanish treasure fleet. Bound from Havana to Spain, 21 galleons sank in a hurricane off the Florida Keys. Meylach takes readers back to the early 1950s and the days of Art McKee and the *Capitana*. Using old charts and makeshift equipment, Meylach eventually uncovers his own fortune in silver ingots, gold coins and other artifacts, writing about his trials and tribulations along the way. The 373 page paperback includes the location of more than 130 wrecks in addition

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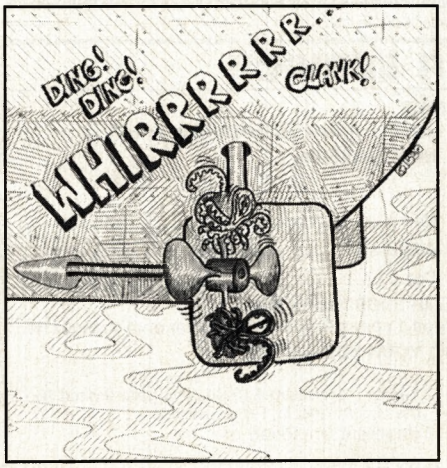
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to a fold-out replica of a salvage chart. The book may be ordered from Val Martin, Florida Classics Library, P.O. Box 1657, Port Salerno, FL 33492-1657.

Moving north to Ft. Pierce, divers can explore another fleet of sunken treasure ships. In his new book, *Sunken Treasure on Florida Reefs—The 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet*, Robert "Frogfoot" Weller writes about 11 galleons that sank between Ft. Pierce and Sebastian Inlet. Working the wrecks on weekends for many years, Weller, his wife, Margaret, and their associates have uncovered gold and silver coins and an assortment of jewelry. One piece, a rosary with a six by eight inch gold cross and three large gold medallions joined by gold filigree links, is one of the finest treasures ever found on the Gold Coast. Weller writes about his research, discoveries and diligent efforts to find treasure in an area that was supposed to have been picked clean by Kip Wagner in the 1960s. The 80 page paperback, featuring maps and photos, is available from Crossed Anchors Salvage, 1818 17th Avenue North, Lake Worth, FL 33460. The price is $10 plus $1 postage.

John Christopher Fine's new book, *Sunken Ships and Treasure*, is a beautifully bound 120 page hardback featuring 100 photos and illustrations by the author. Fine, a biologist and attorney, has traveled the world gathering information for this diversified publication. He writes about successful treasure salvors and examines the historical, technical and environmental information provided by shipwrecks. Suggestions for research and references are offered in Chapter 10, while the Spanish treasure fleet, Truk Lagoon, wrecks of the Mediterranean and museums of old ships are covered in other chapters. The book is available from Macmillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. The price is $16.95.

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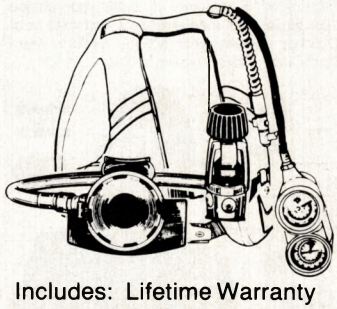
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1a. Title of Publication: SKIN DIVER
1b. Publication No. 00376345
2. Date of filing: 9-25-87
3. Frequency of issue: Monthly
3a. Number of issues published annually: 12
3b. Annual subscription price: $19.94
4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069
5. Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069
6. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor and managing editor:
V.P. Group Publisher: Paul Tzimoulis, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069
Editor-Publisher: Bill Gleason, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069
Managing Editor: Jim R. Warner, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069
7. Owner: Petersen Publishing Company, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069; Robert E. Petersen, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 423.12 DMM only): Does not apply
10. Extent and nature of circulation:

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A.	Total no. copies printed	285,827	286,685
B.	Paid and/or requested circulation:		
	1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	36,843	37,500
	2. Mail subscription	192,008	180,403
C.	Total paid and/or requested circulation	228,851	217,903
D.	Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means: Samples, complimentary, and other free copies	2,542	2,870
E.	Total distribution	231,393	220,773
F.	Copies not distributed:		
	1. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	3,792	3,412
	2. Return from News Agents	50,642	62,500
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I Learned About Diving From That

For Lack Of A Compass...

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY EVERETT KERGOSIEN

We were off for another fun dive at Alabama Point. Before it was closed to diving owing to heavy boat traffic, this was one of my favorite spots, for it is close to my home in Mobile and offered a variety of dives. Alabama Point is the outlet for the Perdido River, which separates Alabama from Florida. Although it is on the Gulf of Mexico, it is not very popular, for clearer waters can be found an hour or so to the east. The local people enjoyed diving this area, however, for at times it was excellent. Since it is an outlet for an extensive river and bay system, the diving could also be tricky.

There was always a dive somewhere on the point at high tide. The jetties, the seawall under bridge and the shallow sandbars in the bay area were all excellent for diving. Each area offered something unique. The visibility ranged from 30 to 70 feet.

I had always been pleased with the variety of marine life in this area. In my many dives here I had always managed to keep an ample supply of stone crab claws, oysters and flounders on the dinner table. Most of these were obtained in the dead of winter, before the hordes of summer divers appeared.

The sudden change of conditions posed a problem when diving this area and allowed only a one tank dive. After high tide the water quickly reverses, current increases sharply and visibility resembles that of black water diving. Each dive had to be chosen strictly by water and weather conditions.

The dive I remember best began with ideal conditions. The weather was good and the visibility, excellent. Winds were to the north and had caused high tide to peak about one hour late. We decided to make a channel dive under the bridge and entered the water at 1:30 pm. My son, Chris, and I invited a friend, Wayne, to accompany us. The three of us had dived this location many times. A stranger approached and asked to dive with us, since he was alone. Wayne agreed to be his buddy when the stranger told us he was a certified, experienced diver. We soon left the western shore under the bridge and headed out into the channel. Visibility was even better than we had expected. We could see from one set of bridge spans to another, more than 50 feet. There was no noticeable current and the two buddy teams soon separated. We were not to see Wayne again until the dive was completed and we were never again to see the stranger.

Chris and I were observing the usual variety of fish and began moving rocks looking for stone crabs. We always took only a single claw from the largest ones, therefore assuring



our future supply. We soon collected more than a dozen claws and noticed the sheepshead, black drum, mullet, oyster fish and cowfish were observing us. As we entered the channel we began to play tag with a friendly school of spadefish. This soon became a merry-go-round in the center of the channel.

The dive was exciting, but my senses now told me it was time to be serious. Water conditions were changing, and we could no longer see clearly to the next set of bridge spans. We then began to notice the current and this meant it was time to return to shore. A quick check of my instruments indicated that I had 800 psi of air, the depth was 35 feet. Chris, slim and in good physical condition, had 1,500 psi. Conditions were rapidly deteriorating and we decided to head back to the western shore. We could see darkness and, as we swam toward it, we realized we were approaching the next bridge span. Soon we were surprised to discover that darkness surrounded us. We had failed to bring a compass. Without being able to see the bridge spans, we lost our sense of direction. My depth gauge now showed 43 feet. Could it be that we had gotten turned around during our games with the spadefish and were now swimming farther into the channel? I turned to discuss this matter with Chris, but couldn't find him. The visibility was now less then ten feet and the current was approaching two to three knots. My gauge showed only 400 psi remaining in my tank.

Chris and I always had a rule that, should we be separated underwater, we would search for one minute and then surface. But this was Saturday afternoon and there would be heavy boat traffic on the surface. However, the decision to ascend seemed more appealing than running out of air underwater.

I decided to surface near a bridge piling. To my surprise, Chris soon appeared nearby. I had lost sight of him but he, being a good diver, had not lost sight of me.

Now we realized the magnitude of our problem. We were in the middle of the bridge approximately 3,000 feet from either side. The current was so strong that it pinned us to the pilings as we talked. We discussed our alternatives. The best solution would be to go back down and make for the shore along the bottom where the current was not as strong. But, then I remembered my 400 psi of air and my compass sitting in my gear bag on shore. Well, we could always swim on the surface. This idea, too, was quickly eliminated, for the current was getting worse and the surface had become so choppy we would choke on saltwater. I thought of my extra 30 pounds of body weight and began to hyperventilate. On the surface the current would quickly sweep us away from the safety of the bridge spans out into the channel. This would mean a one mile or more swim to the jetties or a free tour of the Gulf of Mexico. Chris had a good chance of making it to shore. He was young, an excellent swimmer and he had plenty of air in his tank. Things did not look quite so good for me.

A third unpleasant alternative soon came to mind. It would work! Yes, it could even save my life. But what about my pride? Imagine me, an experienced scuba diver, out here in such a situation. I finally said yes, I can live with this alternative. I turned to Chris and said "Flag down a boat."

"But Dad"

"Flag down a boat, Chris."

It was embarrassing to be dragged to shore holding onto the side of a small fishing boat. As I thanked the fishermen, I could see the grins on their faces. People had now gathered around. In the crowd stood Wayne, but somehow his attention was not on my lost pride. When the visibility had gotten bad, the stranger had left Wayne to be swept off into the channel with no compass. The stranger was wise enough to pack his gear and leave before Wayne could find him.

We were now safe on shore and a little wiser. With the worsening conditions we should have headed back to shore when my tank showed 1,500 psi. We had failed to note the changing conditions during our dive although we knew jetty and channel diving are notorious for rapid changes in visibility and current. I had thought the surface would be safe. However, when the conditions changed, the surface had also become dangerous.

I learned many lessons from this dive. Never become so familiar with a site that you fail to evaluate its conditions properly. Always carry a compass, even if conditions do not appear to warrant its use. Plan to exit the water with 500 psi of air remaining in your tank. Get into shape and be prepared to handle conditions both underwater and on the surface. Don't dive with strangers, no matter what they tell you. Confess and print an embarrassing story if others can learn from it.

SKIN DIVER VOL. 36 NO. 12

(ISSN 0037-6345) Published monthly by Petersen Publishing Company, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90069. Second Class postage paid at Los Angeles, CA and at additional mailing offices. Single copy $2.95. Subscription inquiries phone (213) 854-2470 Subscription rates: U.S. Possessions one year $19.94. All other countries one year $29.94. CONTRIBUTIONS: Should be mailed to 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90069. They must be accompanied by return postage and we assume no responsibility for loss or damage thereto. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary in our sole discretion to meet the requirements of this publication. Upon acceptance, payment will be made at our current rate, which covers the author's and/or contributor's right, title and interest in and to the material mailed including but not limited to photos, drawings, charts, and designs, which shall be considered as text. The act of mailing a manuscript and/or material shall constitute an express warranty by the contributor that the material is original and in no way an infringement upon the rights of others. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Six weeks notice is required to change a subscriber's address. Please give both old and new address and label. Mail to P.O. Box 3295, Los Angeles, CA 90078. POSTMASTER: Send address change to Skin Diver Magazine, P.O. Box 3295, Los Angeles, California 90078.

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